三国志 39

漢水の戦い

横山光輝



希望コミックス 118

SANGOKUSHI

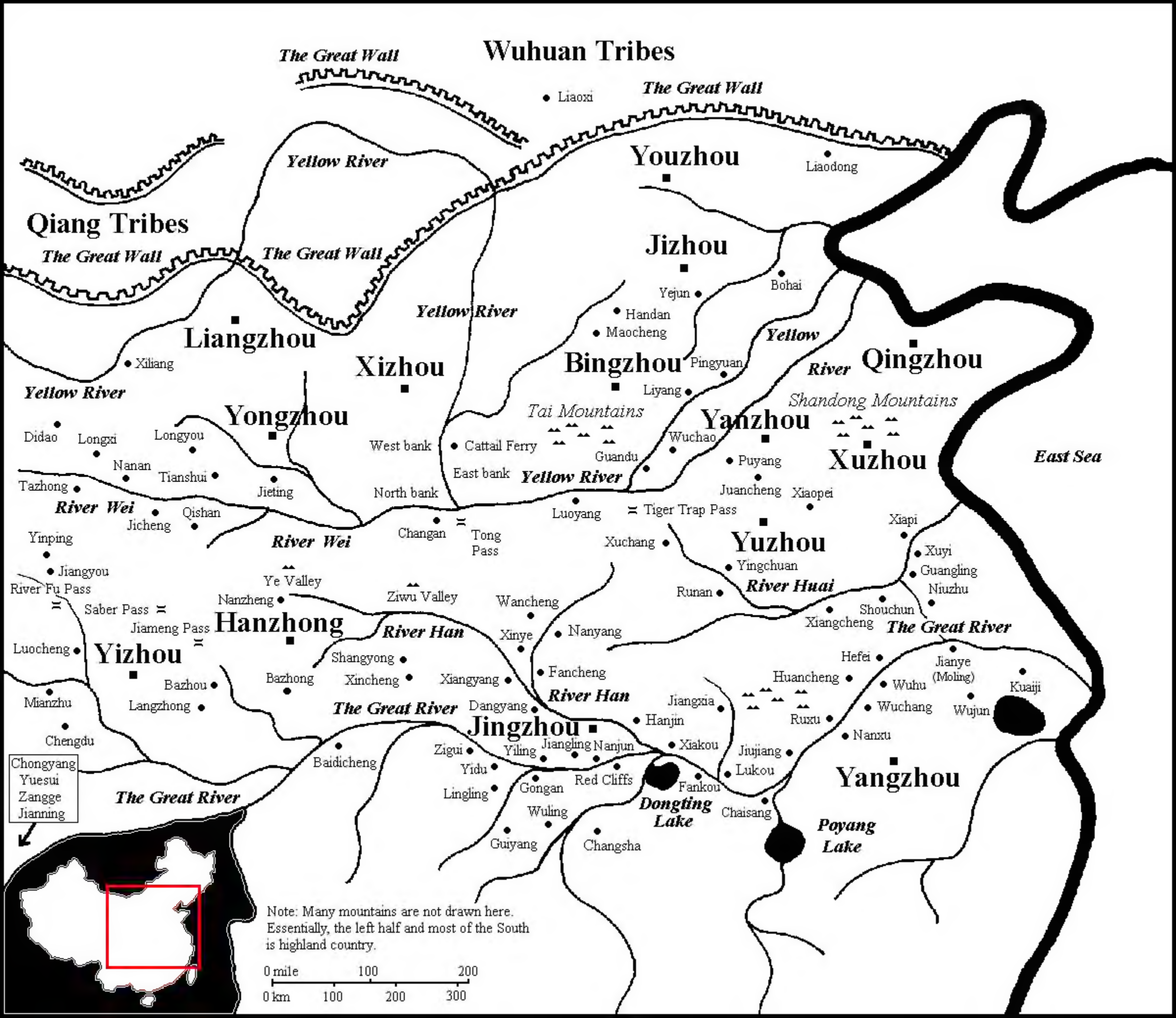
39

BATTLES AT HAN RIVER



ZHAO YUN
ZILONG

YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI



CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.



CAO REN:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.



CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.



CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.



CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.



CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.



CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.



DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.



DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.



DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.



DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.



EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.



FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.



GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.



GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19.



GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.



GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.



HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.



HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.



JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.



LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.



LING TONG:
FORMIDABLE GENERAL OF WU. HE BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST GAN NING FOR KILLING HIS FATHER BACK WHEN GAN NING WAS NOT A WU OFFICER (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.



LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.



LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.



LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.



LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.



LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.



LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.



LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



LU MENG:
FIERCE GENERAL OF WU, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER LU SU'S FORCES SINCE HIS PASSING.



LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.



MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.



MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.



MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.



MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.



MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG.



MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.



PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG.



PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.



SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.



SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTHLANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.



SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.



SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)



SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.



TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.



TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.



THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.



WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.



WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.



XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.



XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.



XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).



XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.



XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.



YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.



YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.



YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.



ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.



ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.



ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.



ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).



ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.



ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 39
BATTLES AT HAN RIVER

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〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

DINGJUN OFFENSIVE



YES, AND THE REMNANTS AT MT. DINGJUN EARNESTLY REQUEST REINFORCEMENTS.

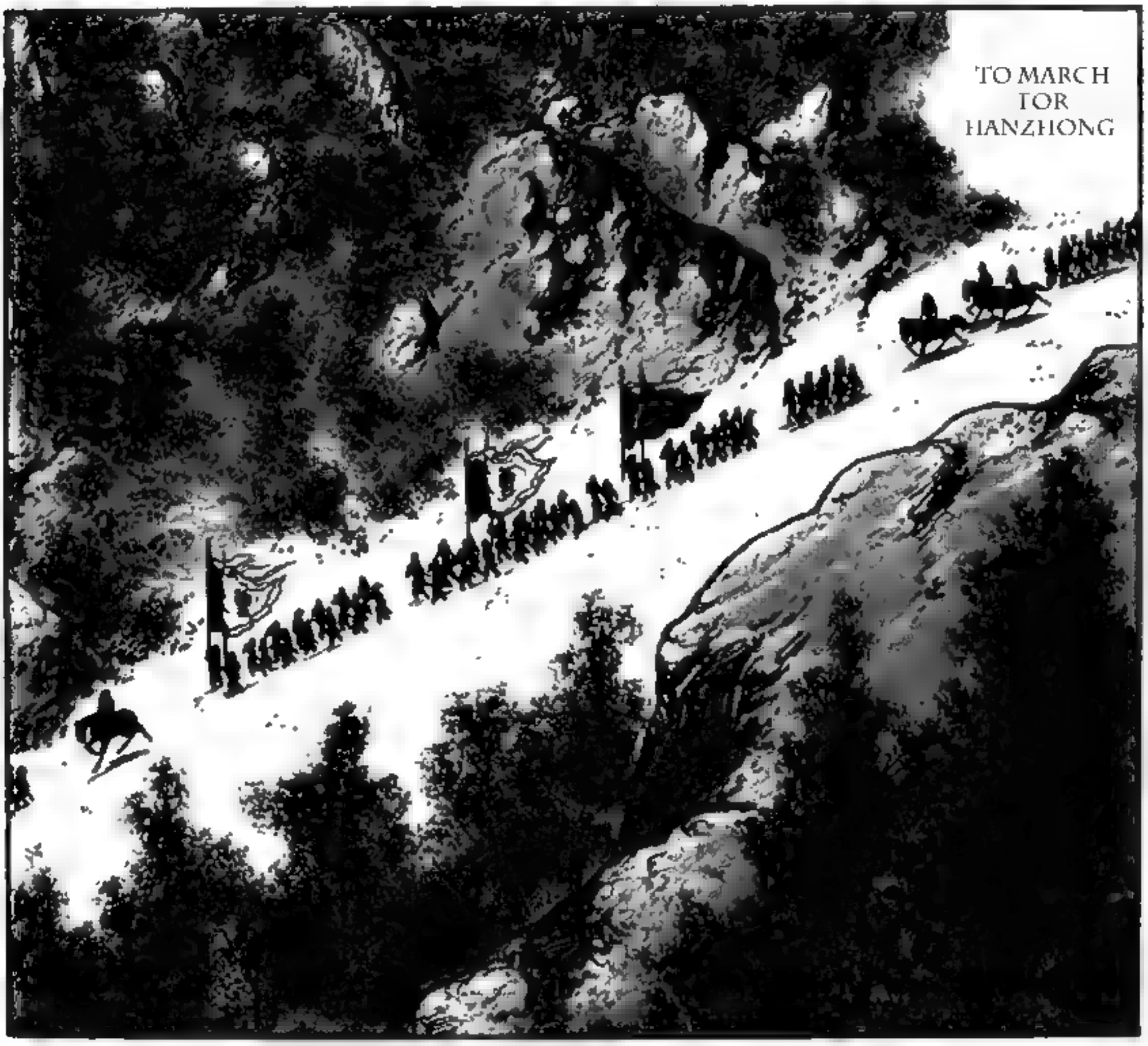
WHAT!? TIANDANG HAS BEEN TAKEN!?

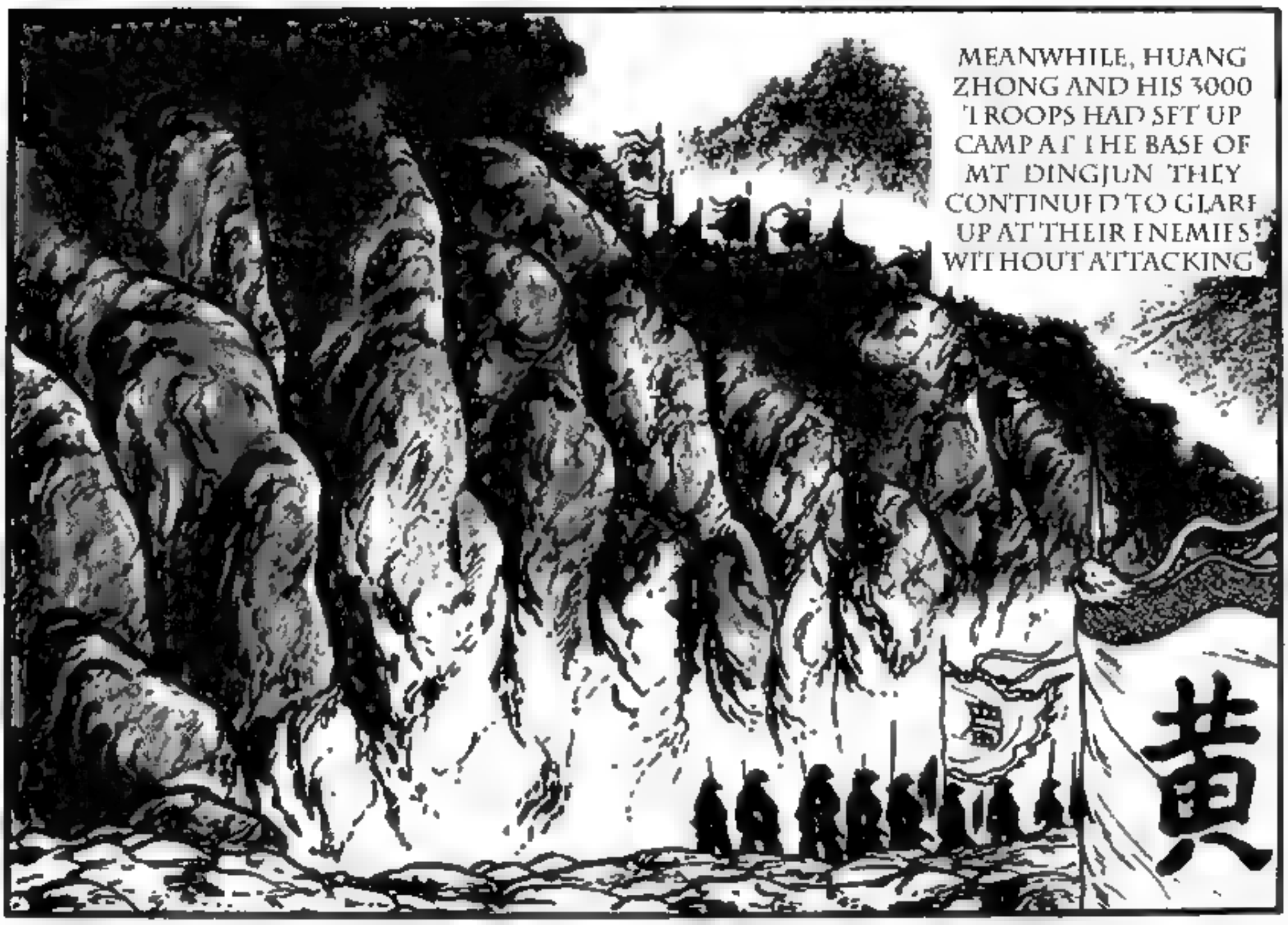
GENTLEMEN! WE MUST NOT LET HANZHONG FALL INTO LIU BEI'S HANDS! WE WILL DEPART AT ONCE TO ITS DEFENSE!

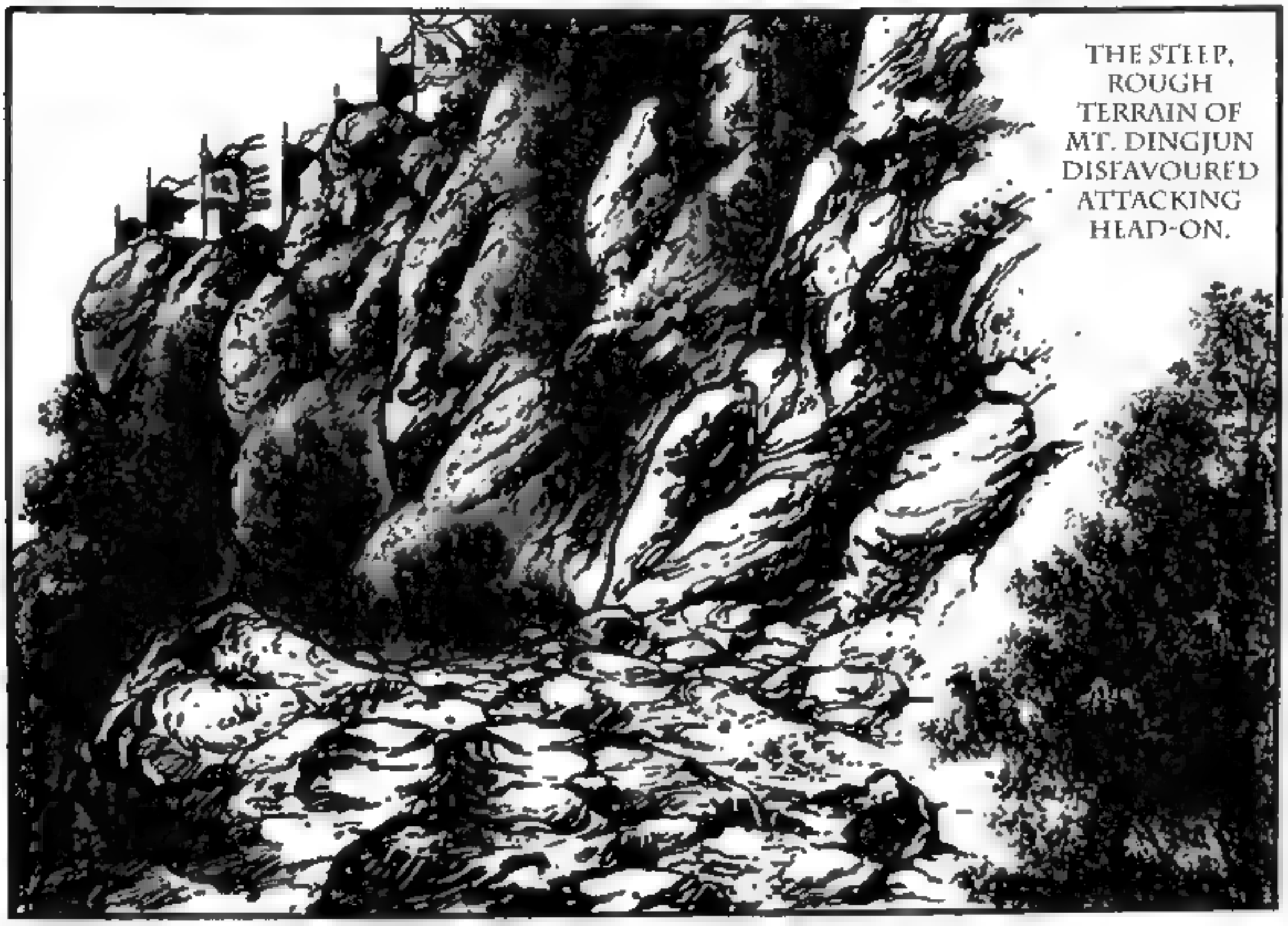
YES, OF COURSE. TELL THEM THAT REINFORCEMENTS WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.

YES, SIR.


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曹
CAO CAO
QUICKLY
MUSTERED
400,000
TROOPS.


TO MARCH
FOR
HANZHONG


MEANWHILE, HUANG ZHONG AND HIS 3000 TROOPS HAD SET UP CAMP AT THE BASE OF MT. DINGJUN. THEY CONTINUED TO GLARE UP AT THEIR ENEMIES WITHOUT ATTACKING.
黄


THE STEEP, ROUGH TERRAIN OF MT. DINGJUN DISFAVOURED ATTACKING HEAD-ON.

THE REINFOR-CEMENTS ARE HERE!?

GENERAL XIAHOU YUAN! THE CHANCELLOR HAS ARRIVED AT THE HEAD OF A 400,000-STRONG ARMY. THEY ARE AT NANZHENG PRESENTLY.

YES.

HA, WITH 400,000 TROOPS, VICTORY IS ALREADY IN OUR GRASP.

HUANG ZHONG'S HEAD WOULD MAKE A FINE GIFT.

WELL SAID!

WELL, WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE LIKE INCOMPETENTS AFTER LOSING TIANDANG. LET US ACCOMPLISH SOME DEED SO THAT WE CAN AT LEAST LOOK AT THE CHANCELLOR'S FACE WITHOUT SHAME.

YOU'RE GOING OUT ON THE ATTACK!?

HUANG ZHONG IS NOT A MAN THAT CAN BE HANDLED SO EASILY. MOREOVER, HE HAS BROUGHT ALONG THE CRAFTY FA ZHENG AS AN ADVISOR THIS TIME. ABANDONING OUR DEFENSIVE ADVANTAGES TO GO OUT ON THE ATTACK IS FOOLHARDY!

WHY?

YOU MUSTN'T!

I ONCE DISMISSED CAO HONG'S WARNINGS TO GO OUT ON THE OFFENSIVE, ONLY TO SUFFER A HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT ZHANG FEI AND HUANG ZHONG'S HANDS.

THIS IS NOT COWARDICE SPEAKING, BUT BITTER EXPERIENCE.

SCARED AGAIN, ARE YOU, ZHANG HE?

WHAT, AND LOOK LIKE MERE HOUSE-DOGS WHEN THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE!?

OUR POSITION HERE IS EASILY DEFENSIBLE! WHY RISK IT BY GOING OUT ON THE ATTACK?

THAT'S ENOUGH, ZHANG HE. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. THE TWO OF US WILL GO ON THE ATTACK WHILE YOU STAY HERE AND GUARD THE BASE.

BUT...

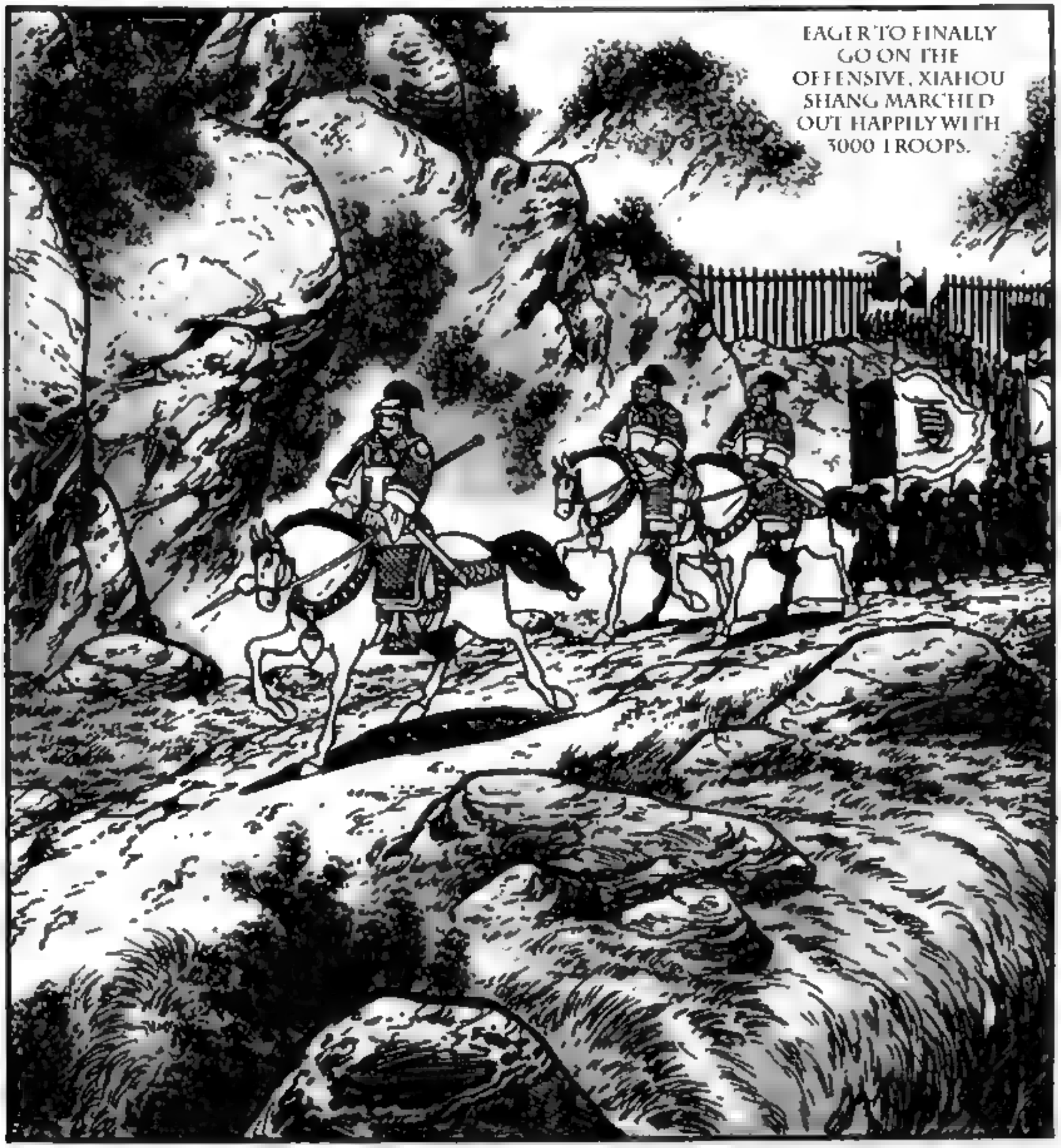
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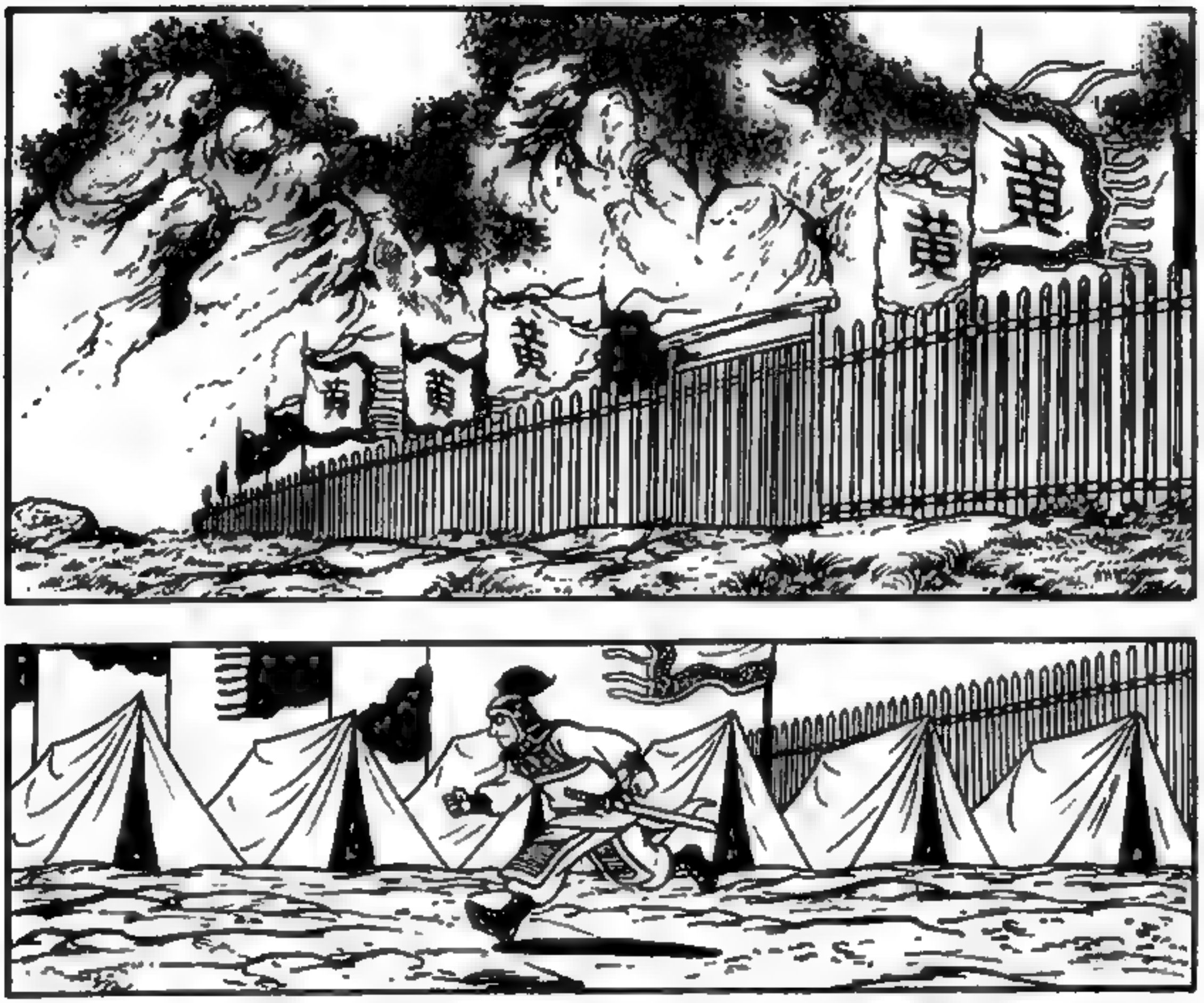
I AGREE. IF WE ACCOMPLISH NOTHING BY THE TIME REINFORCEMENTS COME, WE'LL LOOK LIKE INCOMPETENTS.

YES.

XIAHOU SHANG, YOU ARE TO LURE HUANG ZHONG DEEPER INTO THE HILLS.


.....
GOOD IDEA.
MEANWHILE, I'LL PREPARE AN AMBUSH FOR HIM.


EAGER TO FINALLY GO ON THE OFFENSIVE, XIAHOU SHANG MARCHED OUT HAPPILY WITH 3000 TROOPS.


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黄
黄


AN ENEMY CONTINGENT IS COMING DOWN FROM THEIR BASE.


WHAT IS IT?
GENERAL!

PREPARE TO ATTACK, MEN!

SO THEY'RE FINALLY COMING DOWN...

CHEN SHI?

PLEASE WAIT, GENERAL! A SMALL CONTINGENT OF 3000 IS NOTHING YOU MUST TO PERSONALLY DEAL WITH. GIVE ME 3000 TROOPS AND I WILL ATTACK THEM FROM THE REAR AS THEY DESCEND FROM THE HILLS.

LET'S MOVE OUT!

THANK YOU.

VERY WELL.

AS PLANNED, CHEN SHI ENGAGED XIAHOU SHANG'S FORCES FROM THE REAR AS IT CAME DOWN THE HILLS

THINGS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE GOING WELL.

HM...

THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN, SIR!

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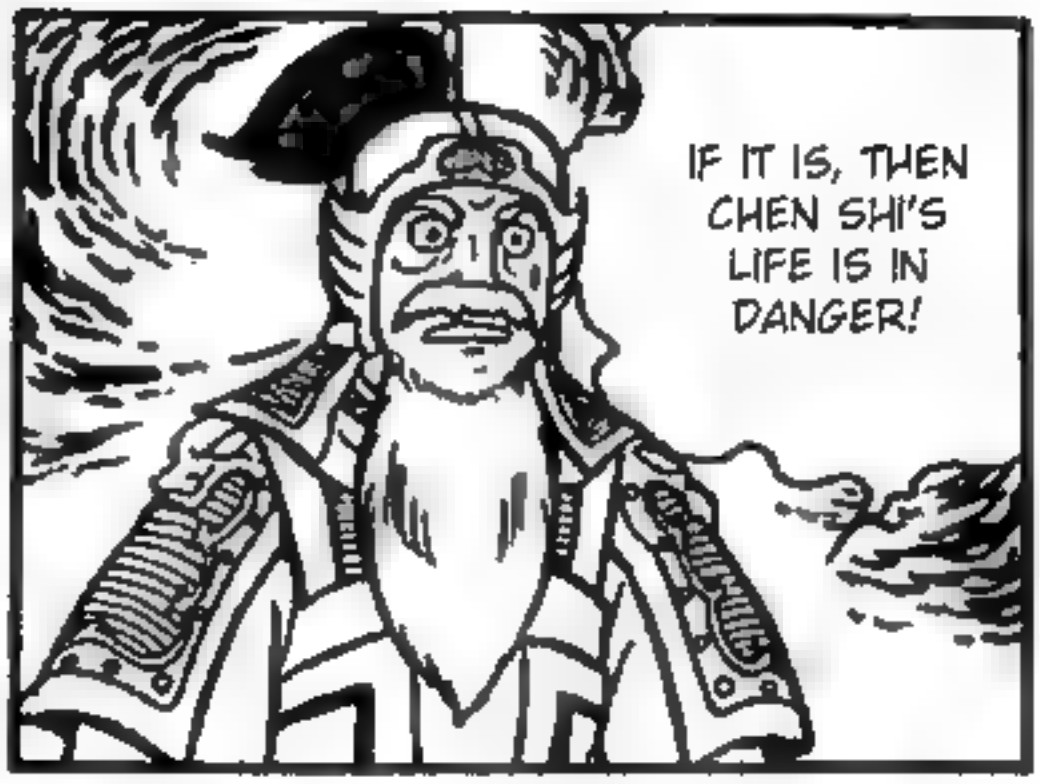
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COULD THIS BE A FEIGNED RETREAT...?

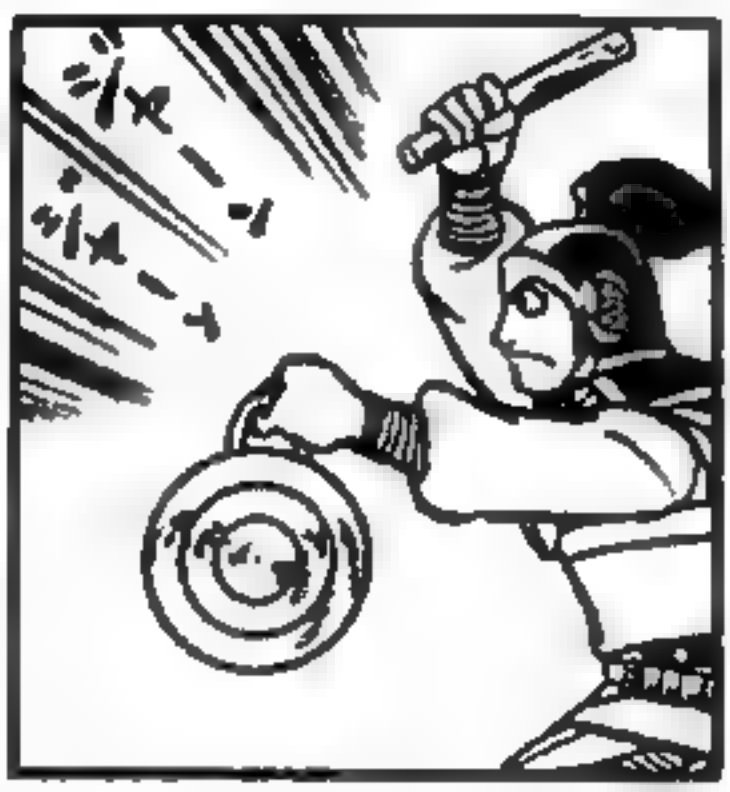
THAT'S ODD, THE ENEMIES ARE LACKING A WILL TO FIGHT EVEN THOUGH THEY DECIDED TO COME DOWN...

GENERAL! THE ENEMIES HAVE BEGUN TO ROUT!


WE MUST AID CHEN SHI!


IF IT IS, THEN CHEN SHI'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!








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NOW!

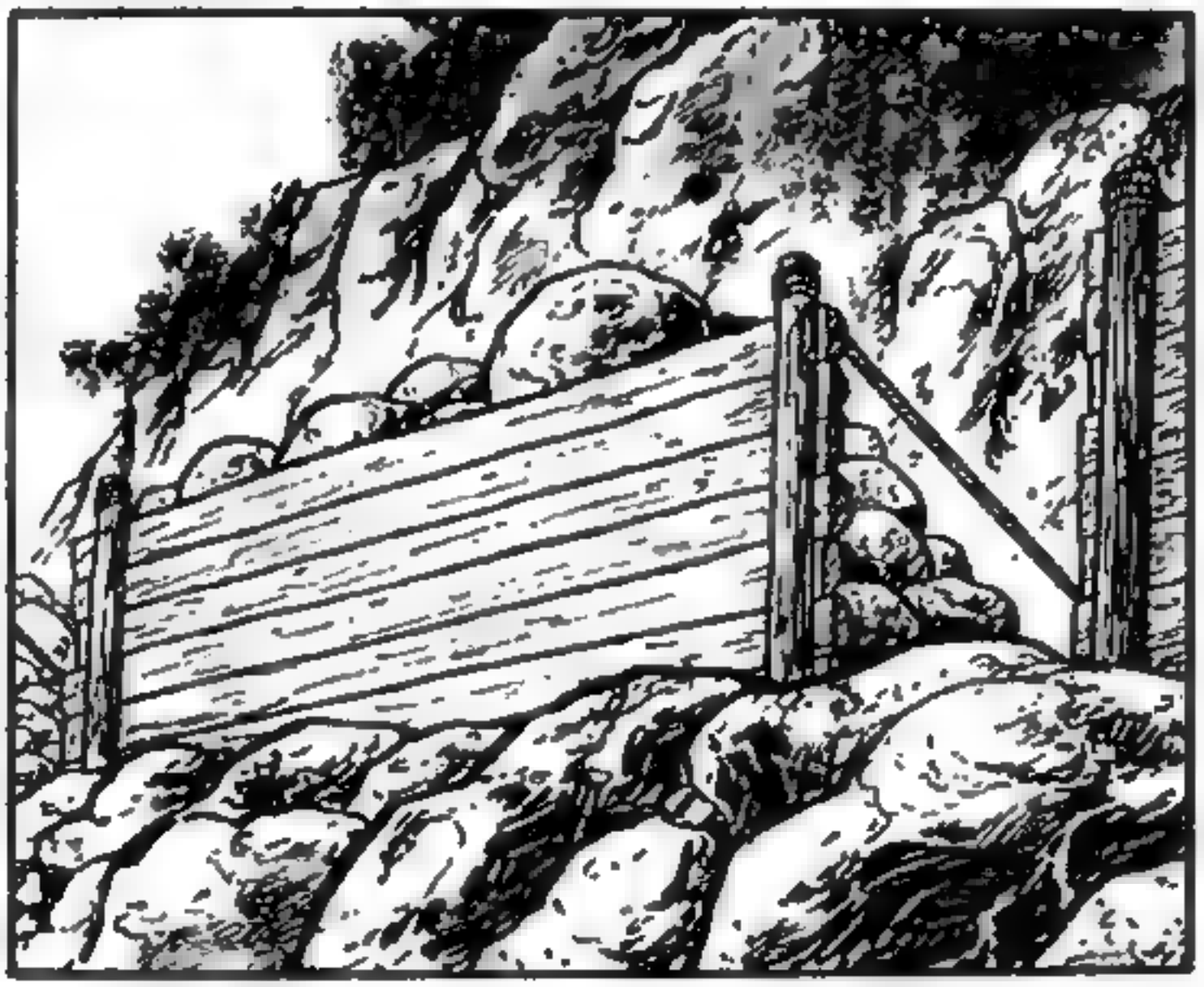

HERE COMES HUANG ZHONG!

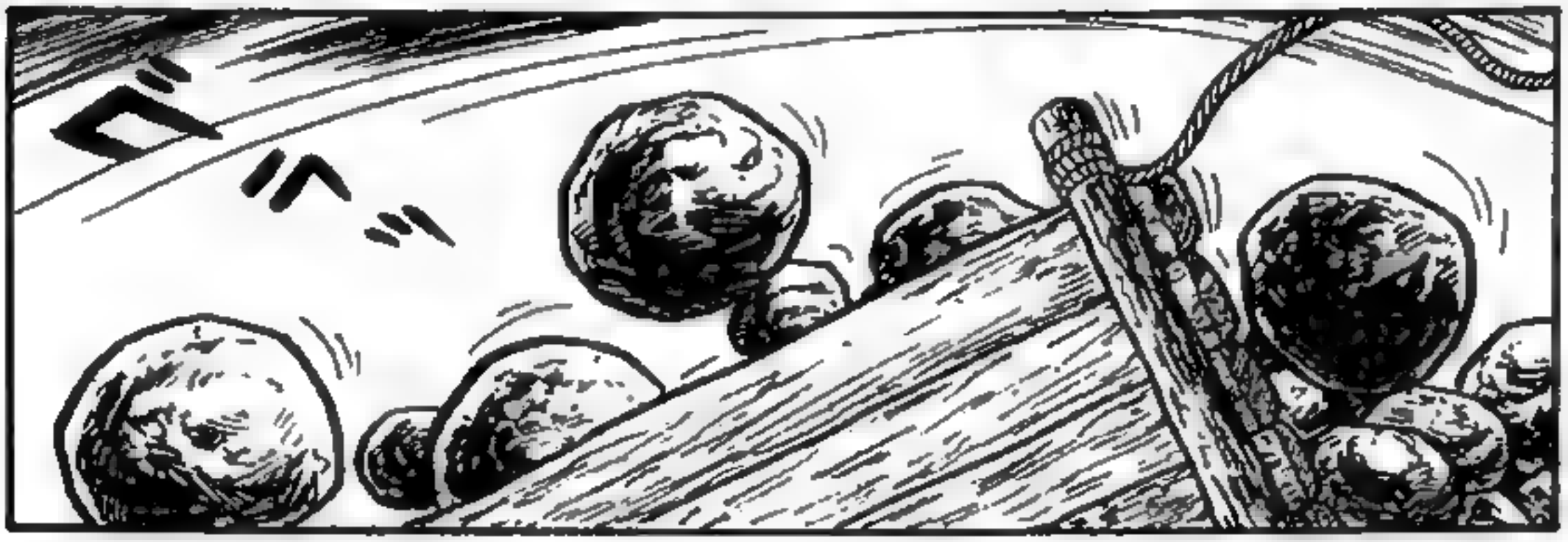

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RETREAT!
RETREAT!




NOW'S OUR CHANCE! ATTACK!

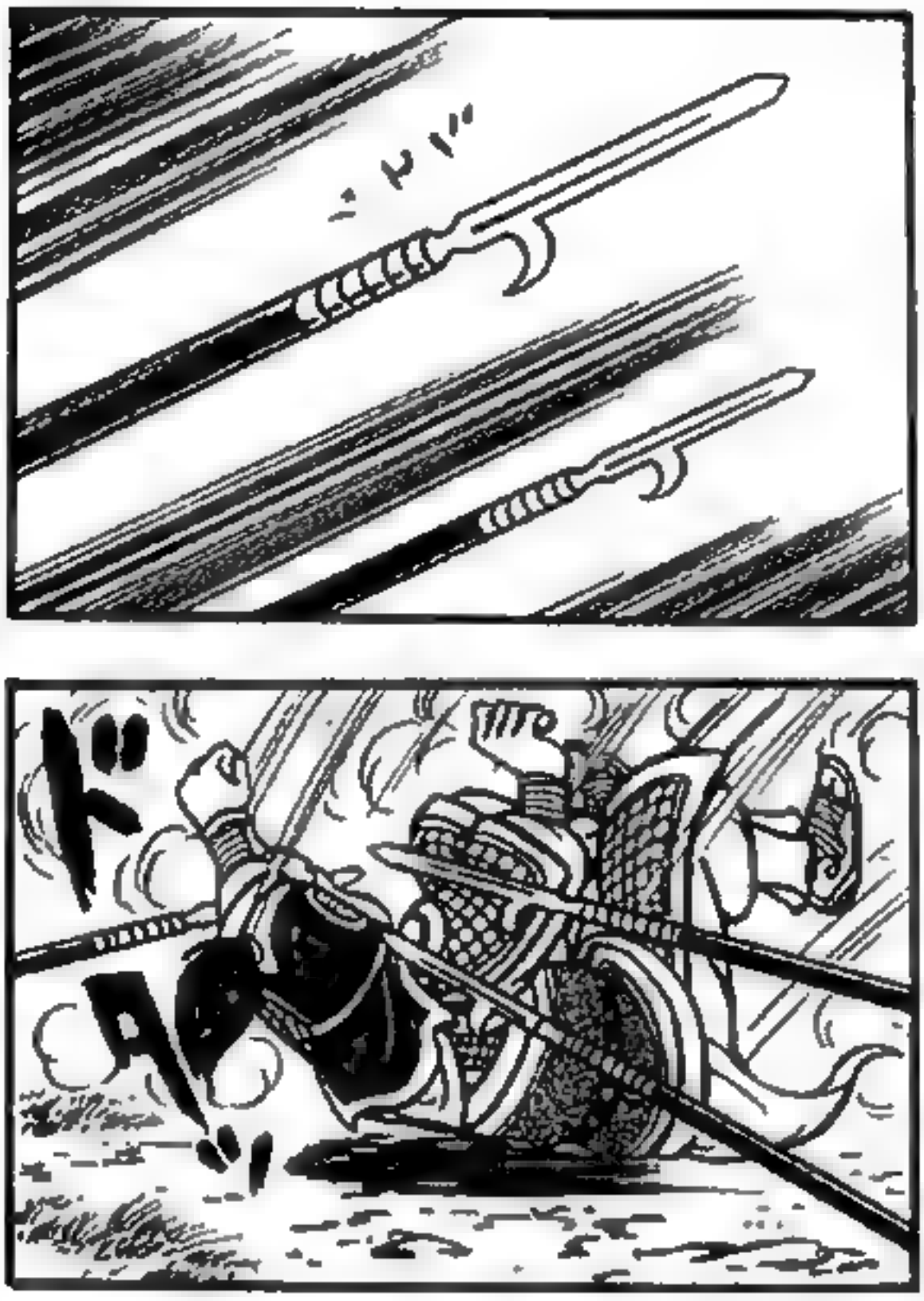




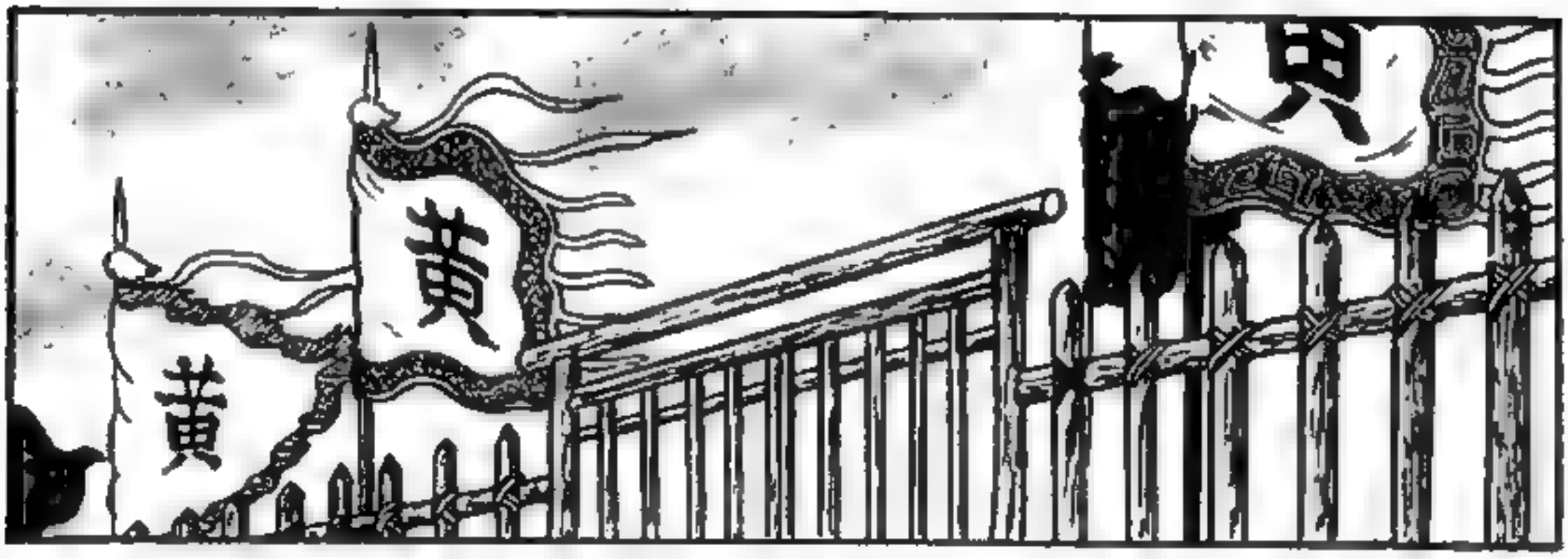

RETREAT! RETREAT!


AH-


IT'S AN AMBUSH, SIR!


AHH!


C... CURSES...
WE'VE CAUGHT THE ENEMY GENERAL!


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WHAT A TERRIBLE TURN OF EVENTS.


I MUST DISCUSS WITH FA ZHENG ON HOW TO PROCEED.


YES, ALONG WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED OF OUR TROOPS.
WHAT!? CHEN SHI WAS TAKEN PRISONER?


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IF IT'S ABOUT CHEN SHI, THEN I'VE JUST HEARD.

YES, HUANG ZHONG?

FA ZHENG!

OUR TROOP'S MORALE WILL SUFFER FROM THIS...

FIRST, REWARD THE SURVIVORS SO THEY DO NOT GET IDEAS ABOUT DEFECTING OR RUNNING AWAY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS?

ONE STEP AT A TIME?

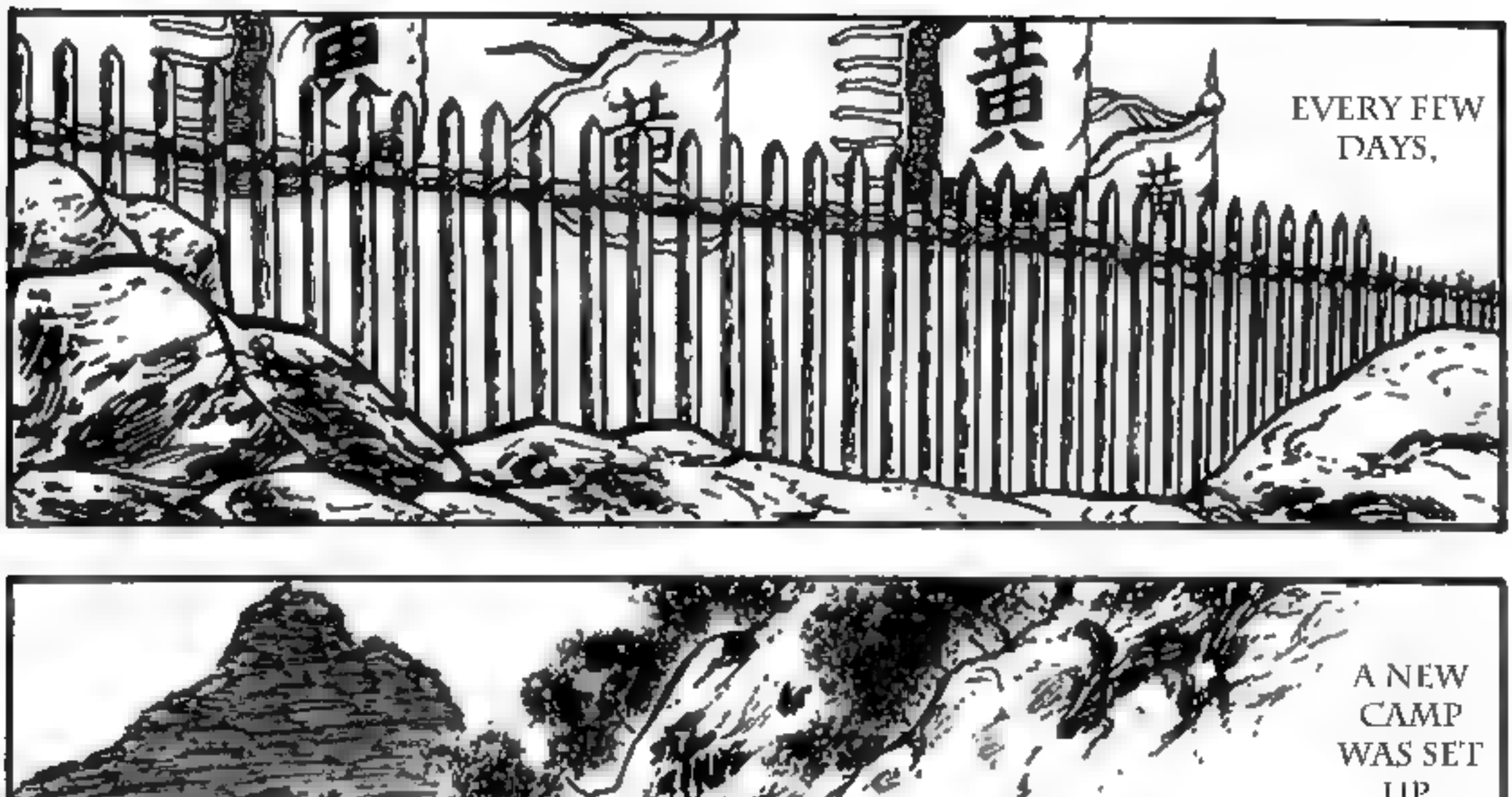
THEN, ADVANCE YOUR CAMPS ONE STEP AT A TIME UP THE HILLS.

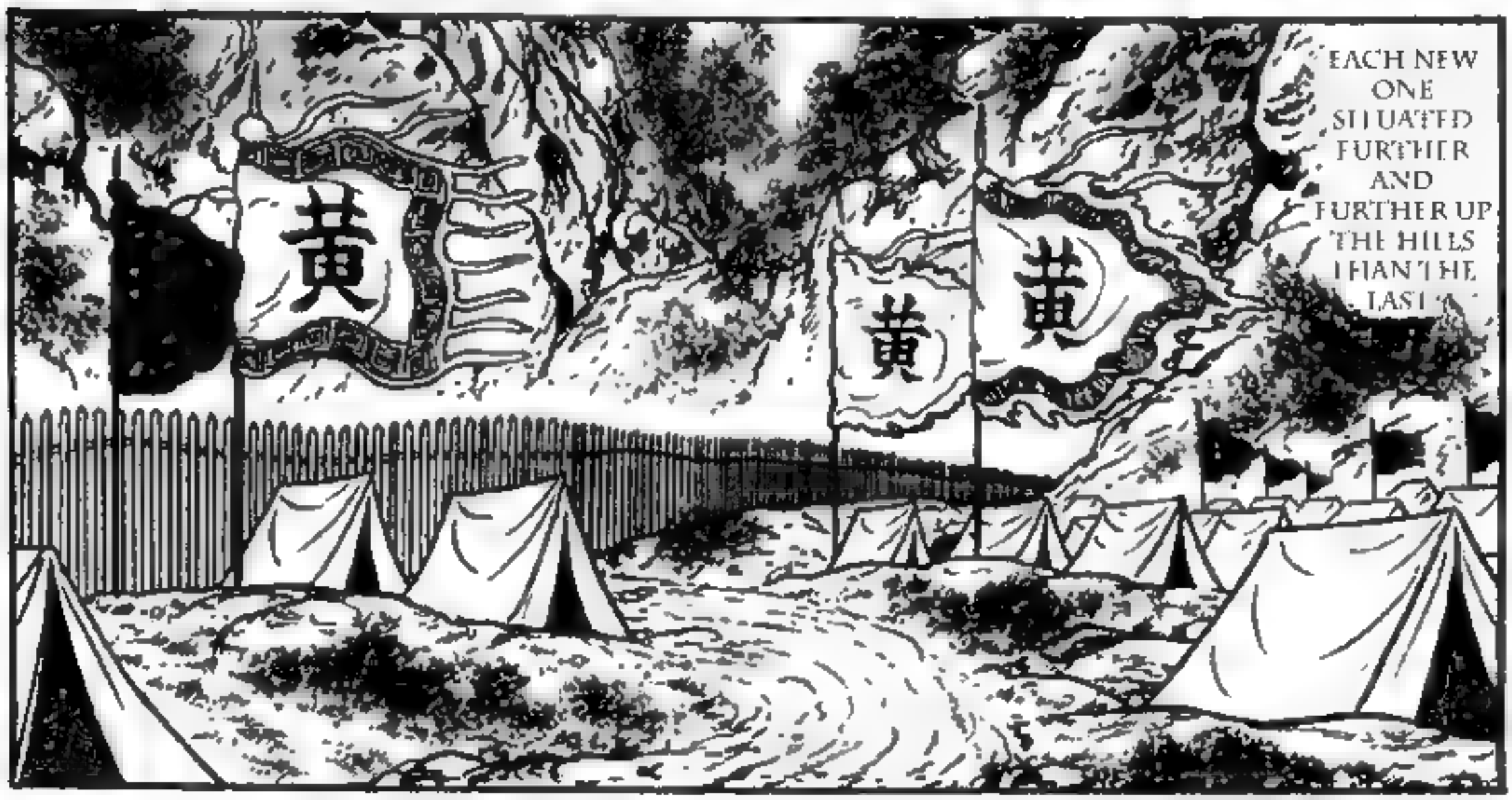
XIAHOU YUAN IS THE HOT-HEADED AND IMPATIENT TYPE. IF YOU ADVANCE YOUR CAMPS JUST ONE STEP AT A TIME, LIKE THE TIDE SLOWLY ENCROACHING A SHORE, YOU'LL ENTICE HIM MORE AND MORE UNTIL HE CANNOT SUPPRESS HIS URGES ANYMORE.

AH, SO WE'LL TEMPT HIM INTO ATTACKING...

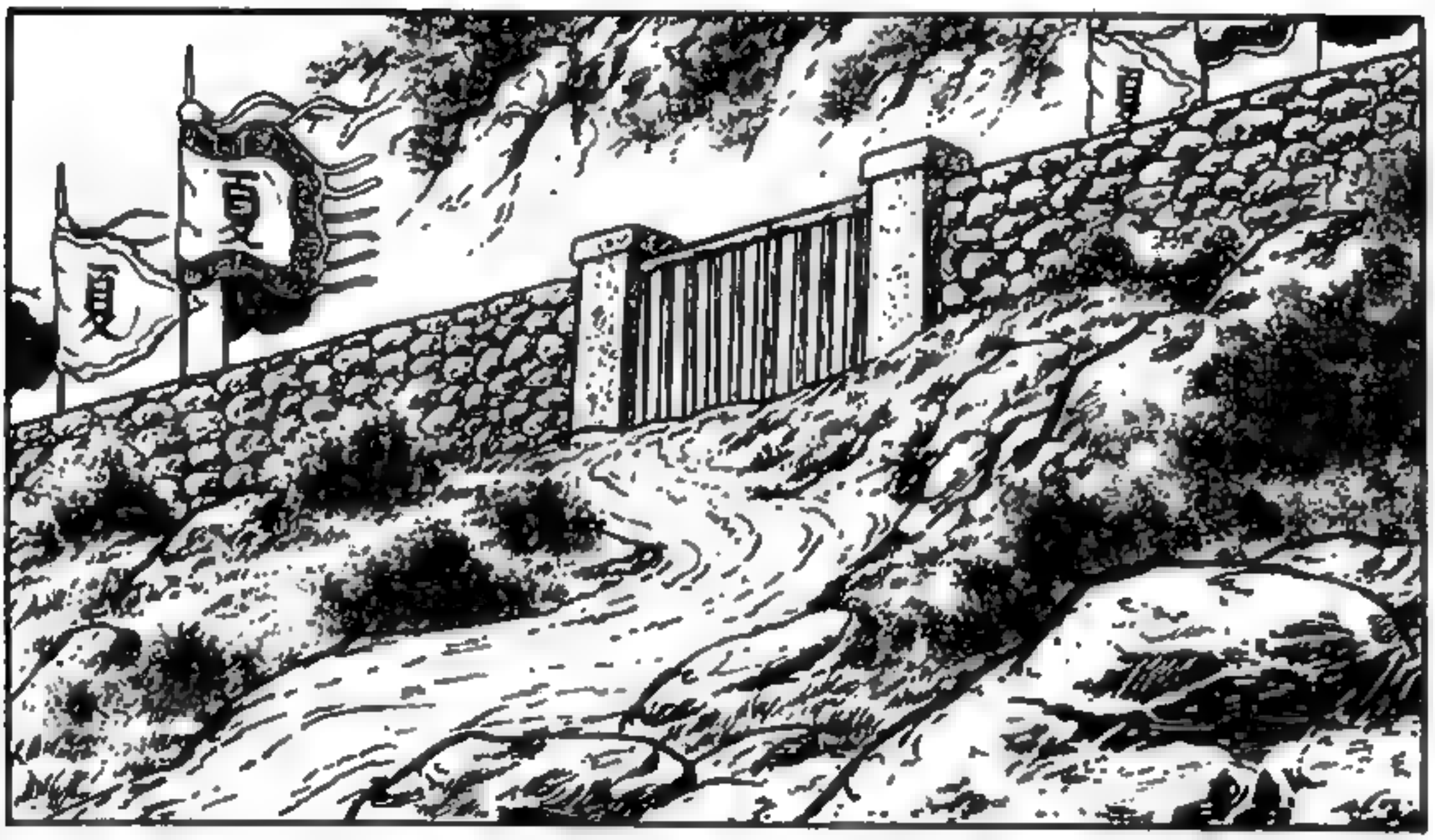
BAITING XIAHOU YUAN OUT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN NULLIFY MT. DINGJUN'S SOLID DEFENSES.

HUANG ZHONG IMMEDIATELY PUT FA ZHENG'S PLAN INTO MOTION.


EVERY FEW DAYS,
A NEW CAMP WAS SET UP.


EACH NEW ONE SITUATED FURTHER AND FURTHER UP THE HILLS THAN THE LAST.

HOSTAGE TRADE









RIGHT AWAY.

GO ATTACK THE ENEMY CAMP.

YES?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE MOSQUITOES BUZZ AROUND NEAR MY EAR!

SILENCE!

SIR! THE FACT THAT THEY'RE APPROACHING SO SLOWLY UNDERSCORES THE DEGREE OF CAUTION THEY'RE TAKING. THEY'LL BE MORE THAN FULLY PREPARED TO WARD OFF AN ATTACK.

GOOD LUCK.

LEAVE IT TO ME, UNCLE.

YES, WE SHOULD REMOVE THIS EYESORE BEFORE IT GETS EVEN WORSE.



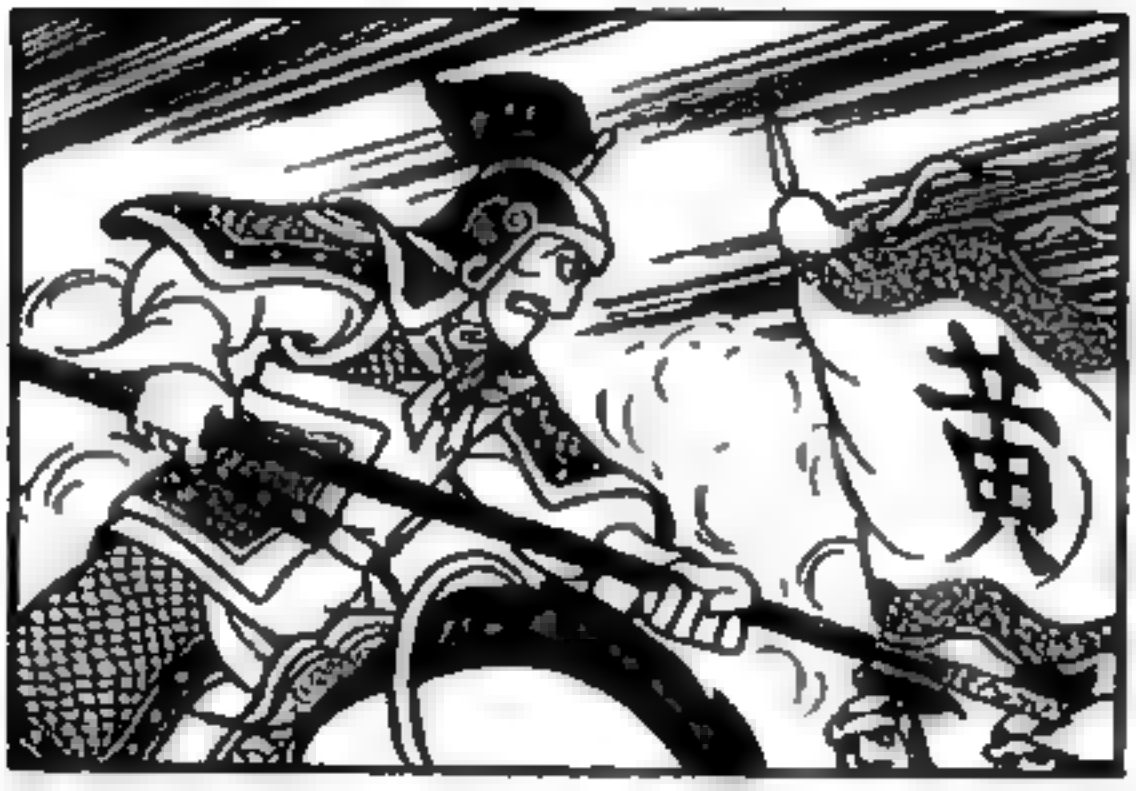


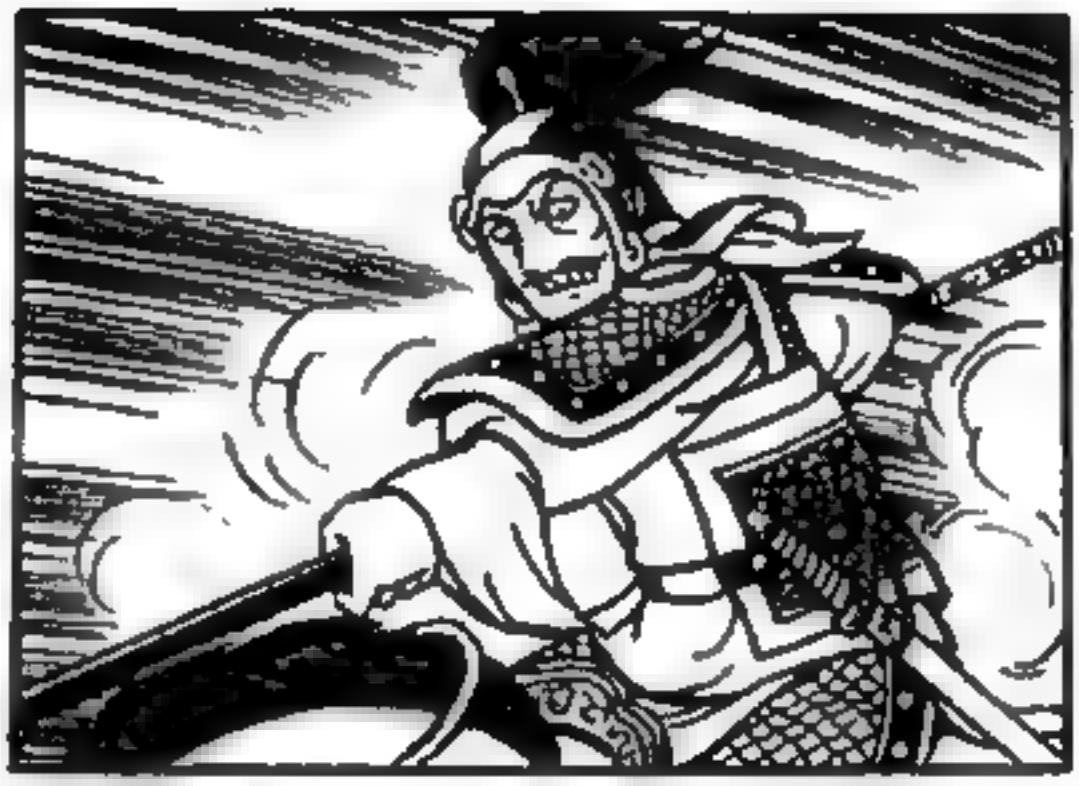

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!


SO THEY'VE COME?
SIR! THE ENEMIES ARE COMING DOWN!



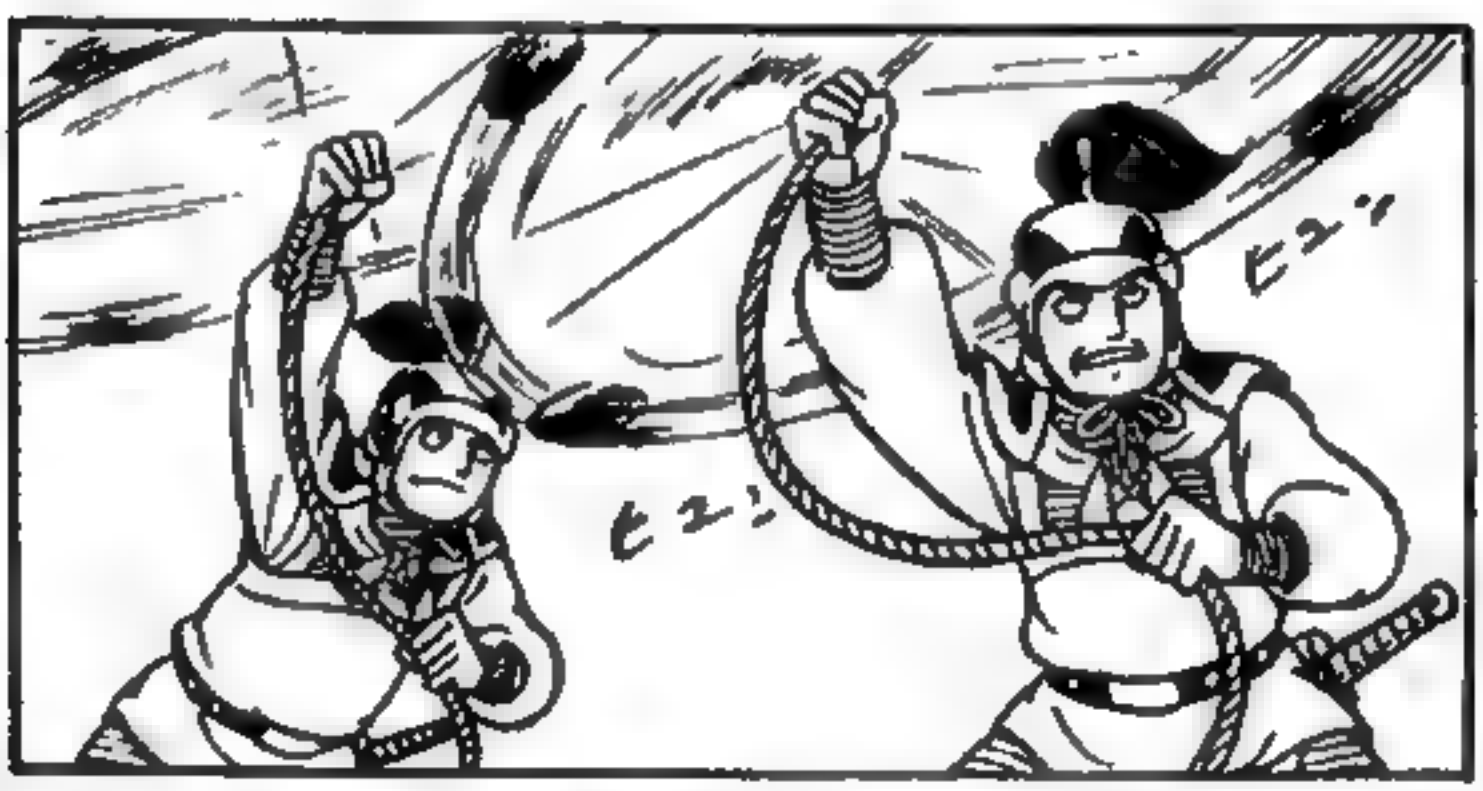

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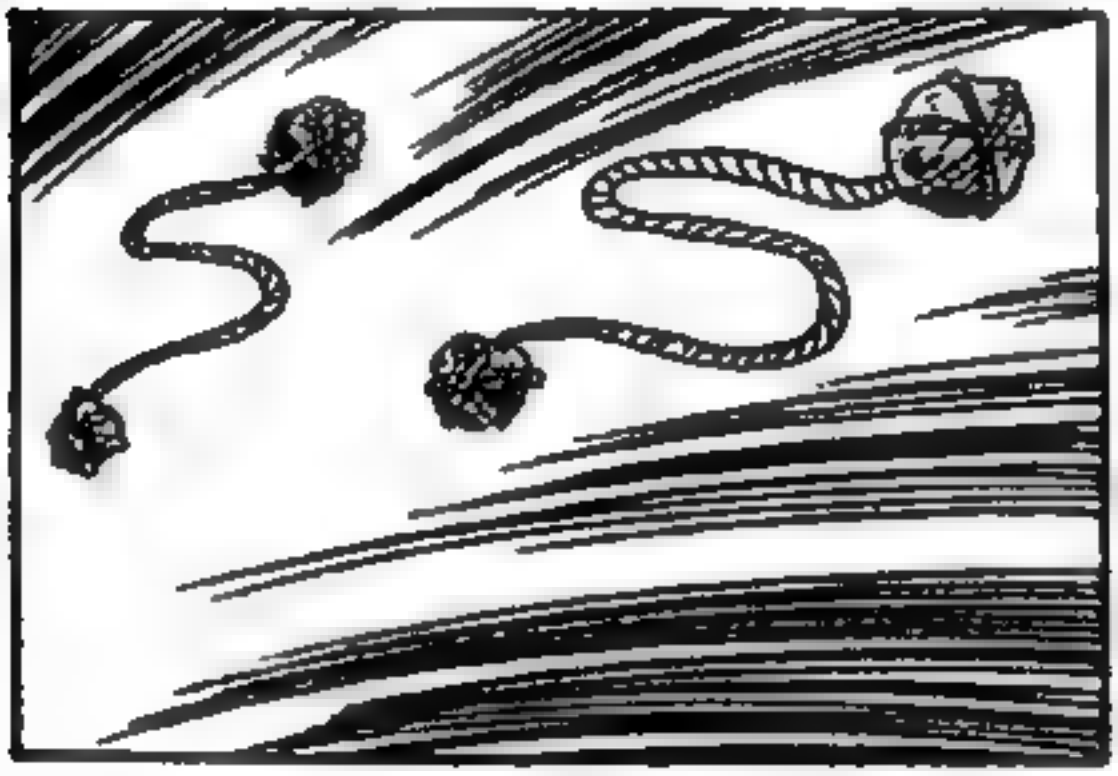

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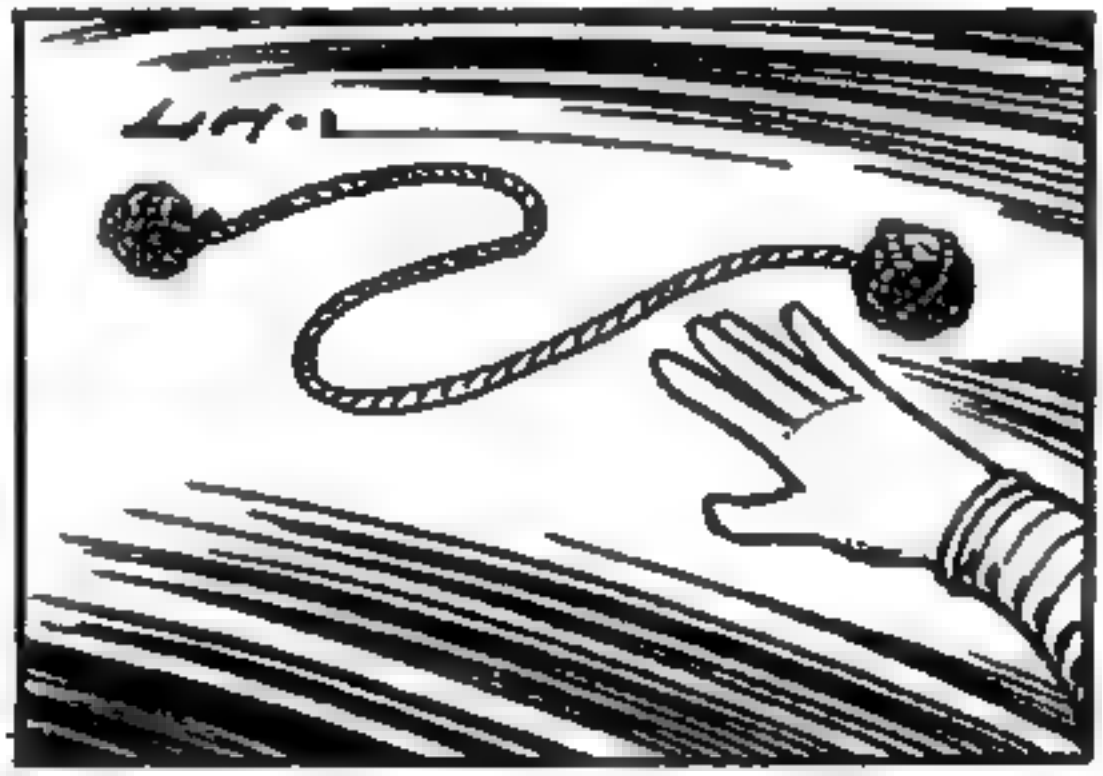


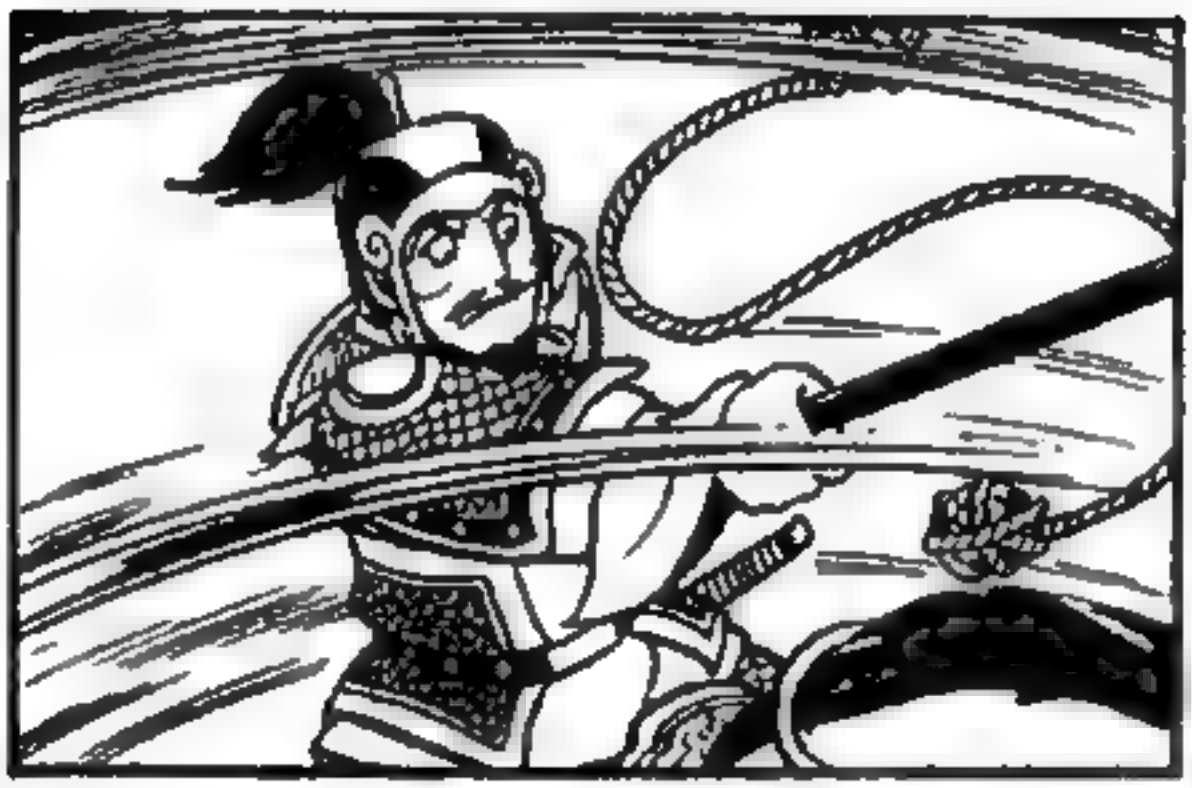



THAT'S THE ENEMY LEADER! TAKE HIM ALIVE!


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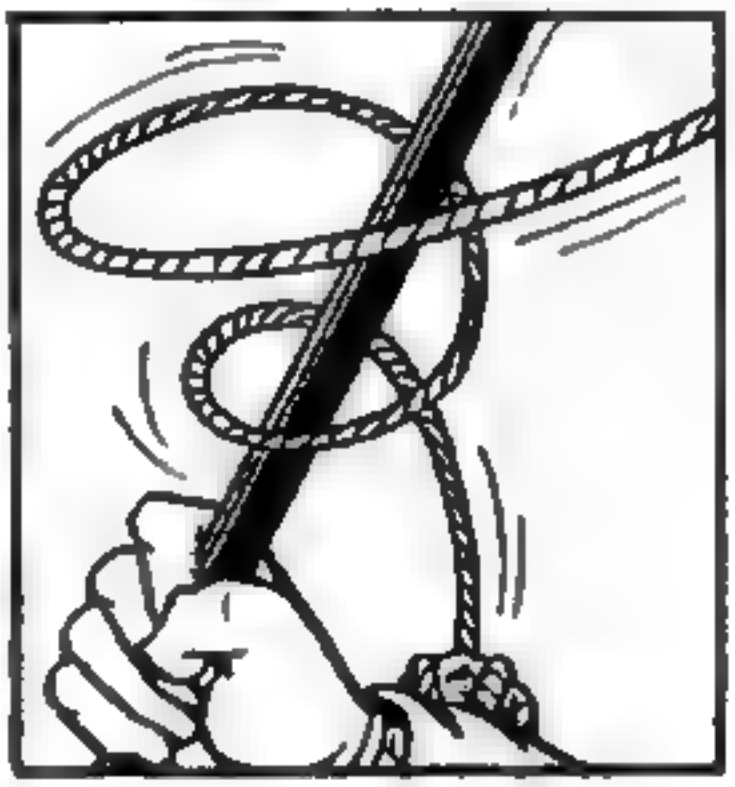


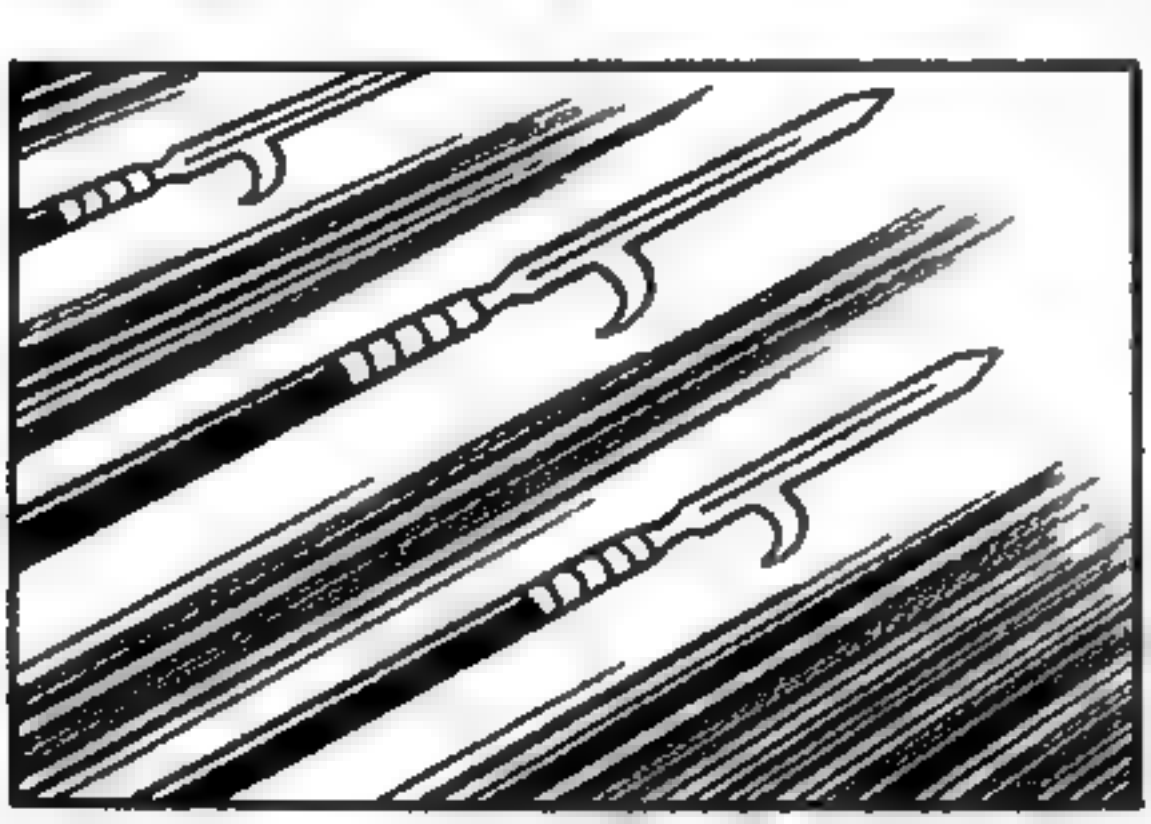

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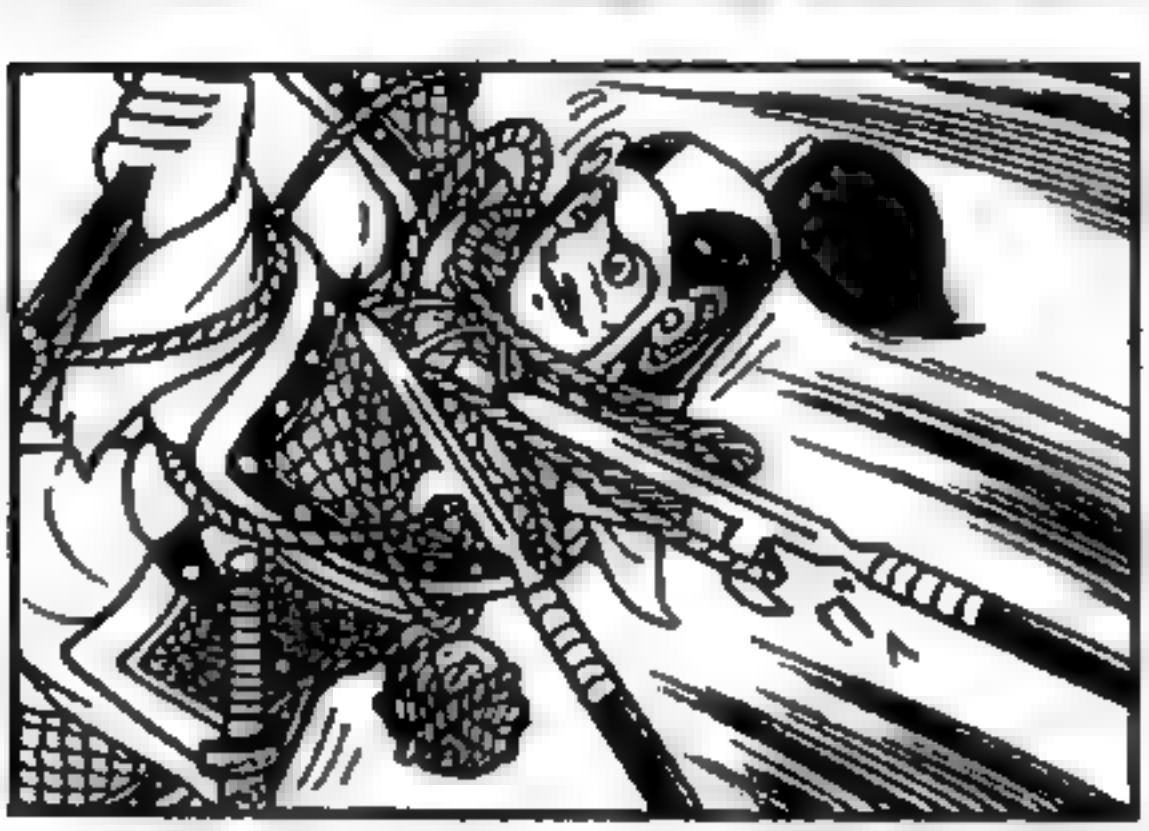

AH!


GAHH-



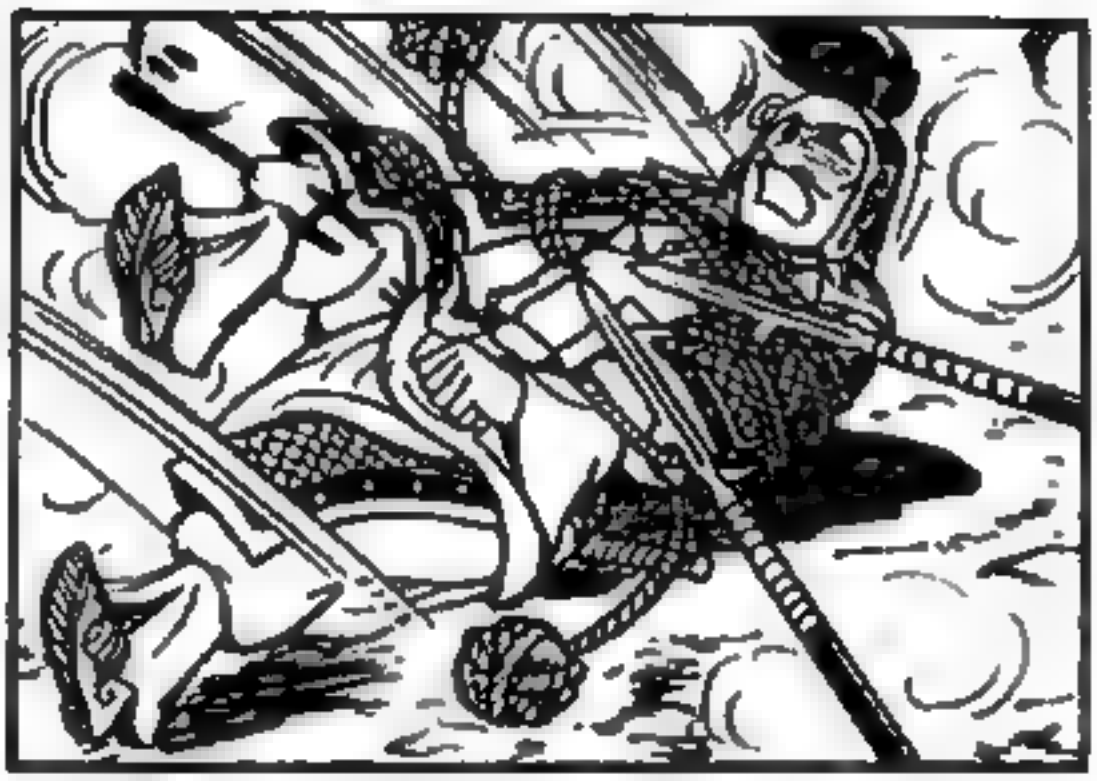



NOW!




AHH-


WE CAUGHT HIM!

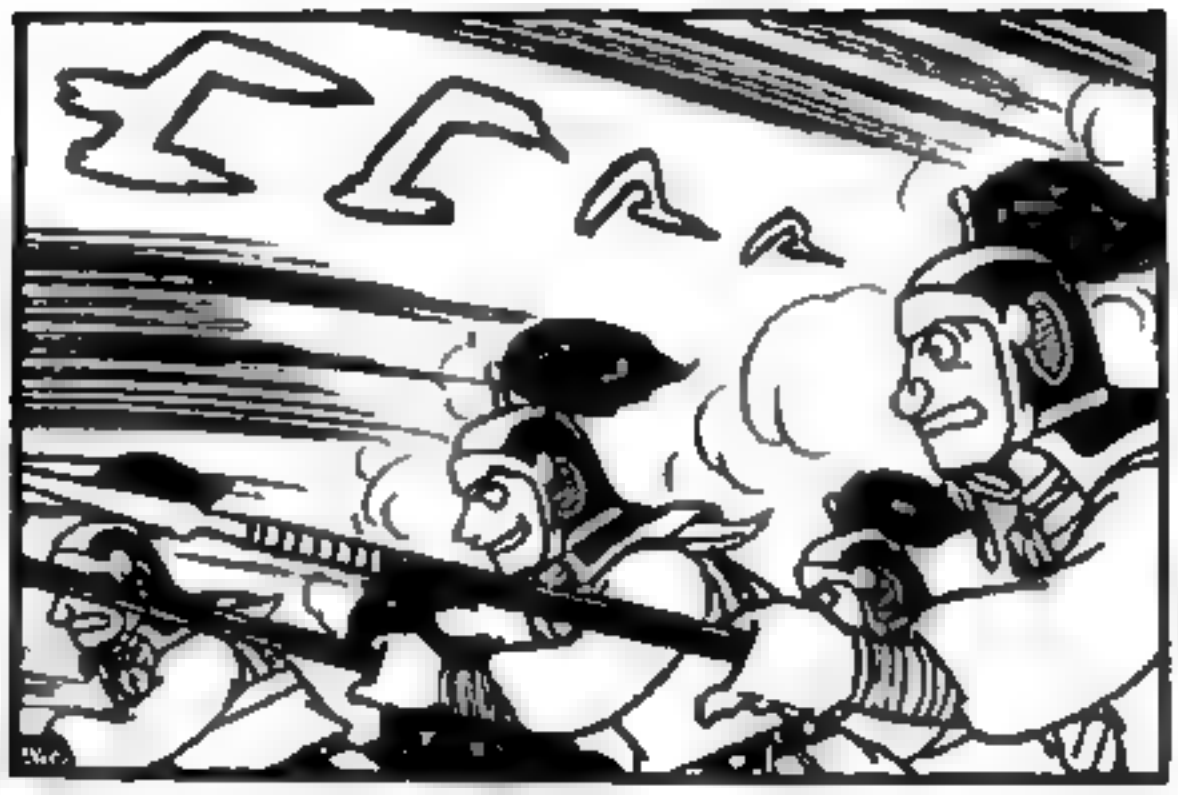



WHA!?


WE'VE CAUGHT THE ENEMY GENERAL!


AH!

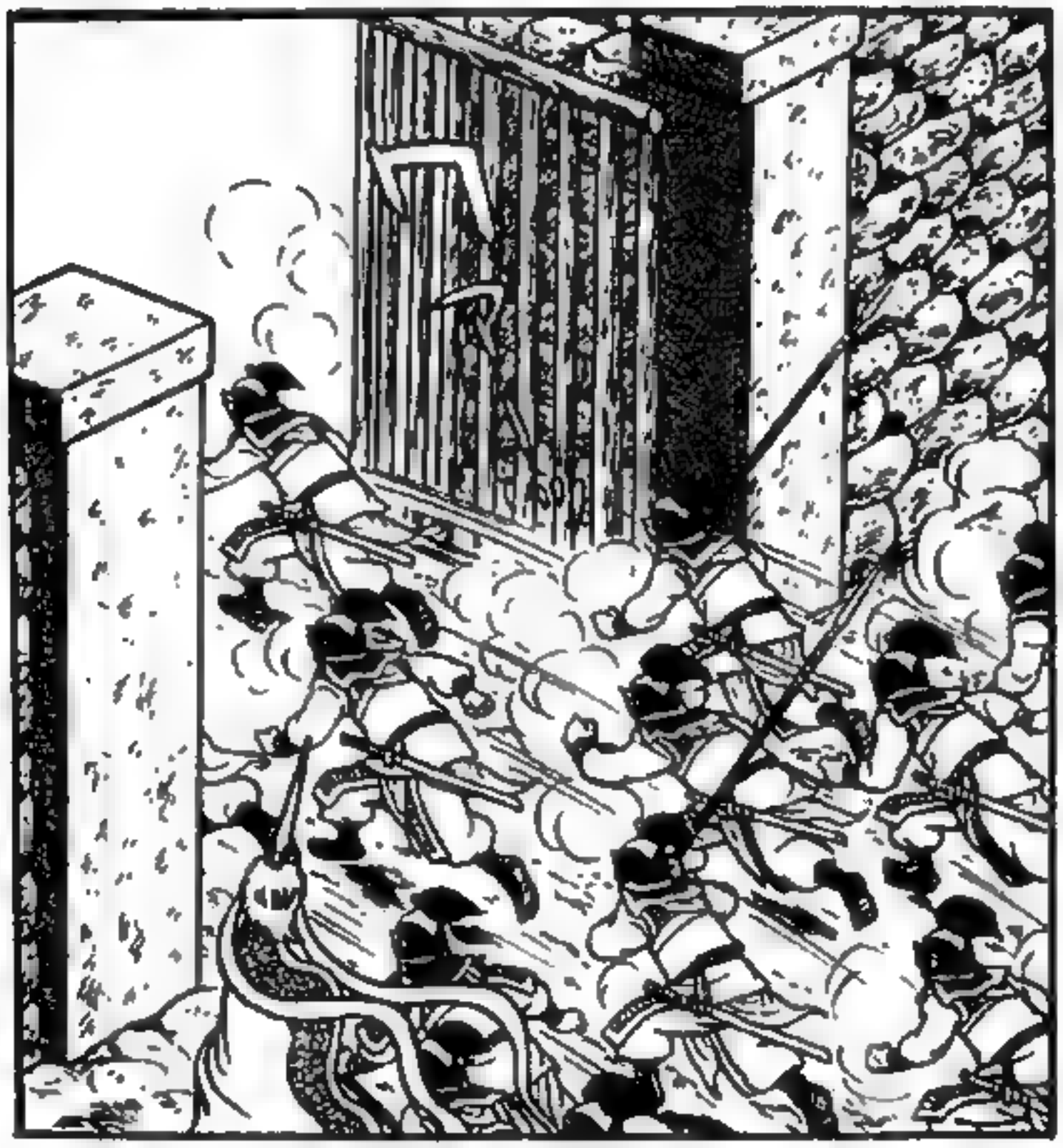

RUN!




NOW'S OUR CHANCE! AFTER THEM!







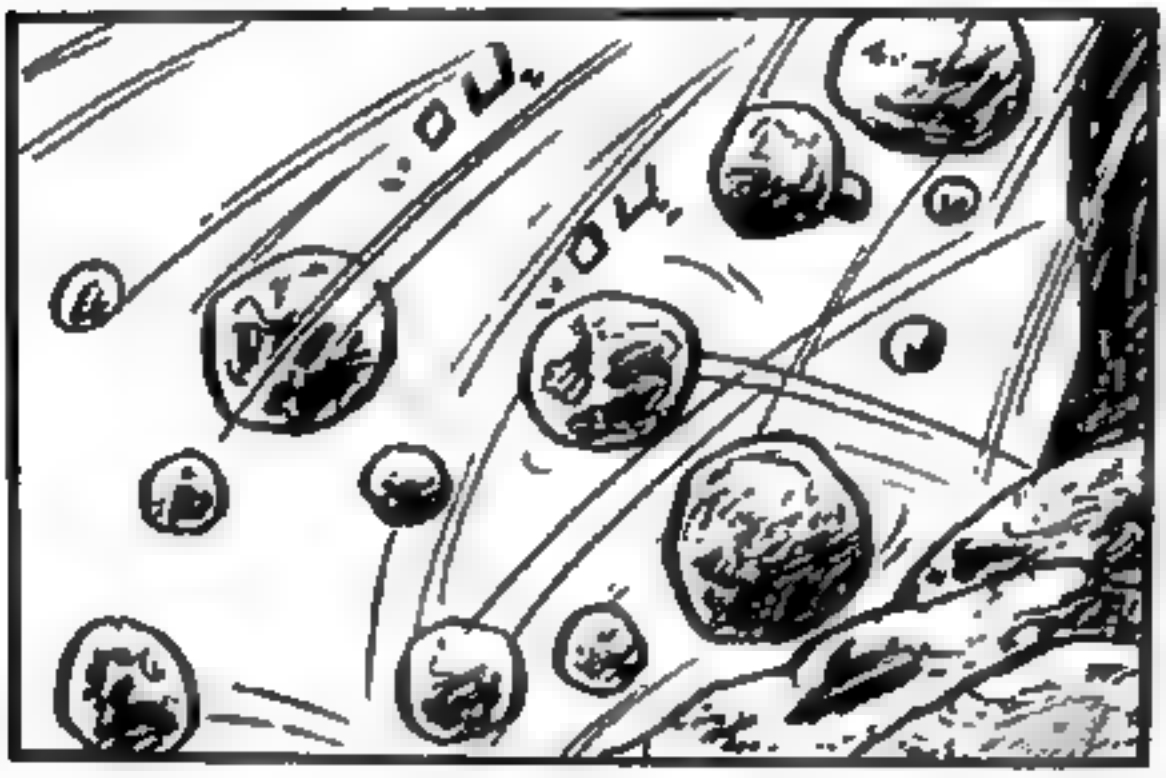

AHH!
SIR! THEY'VE ROUTED OUR FORCES!

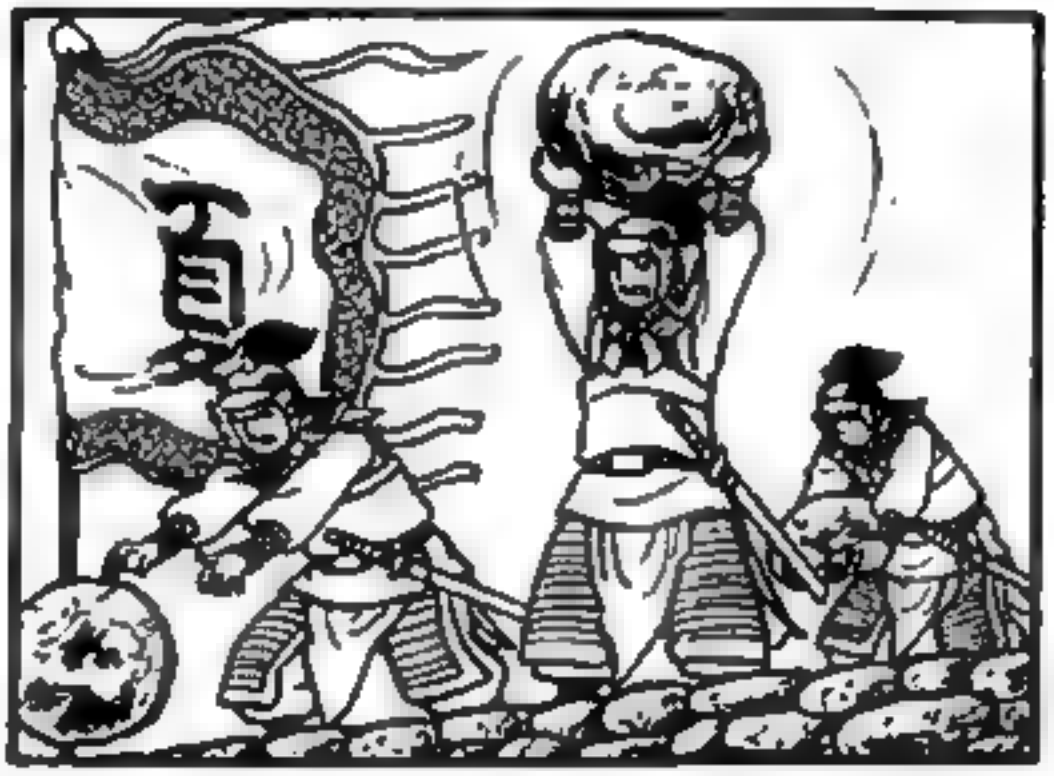



SHUT THE GATES!


THROW THE ROCKS!





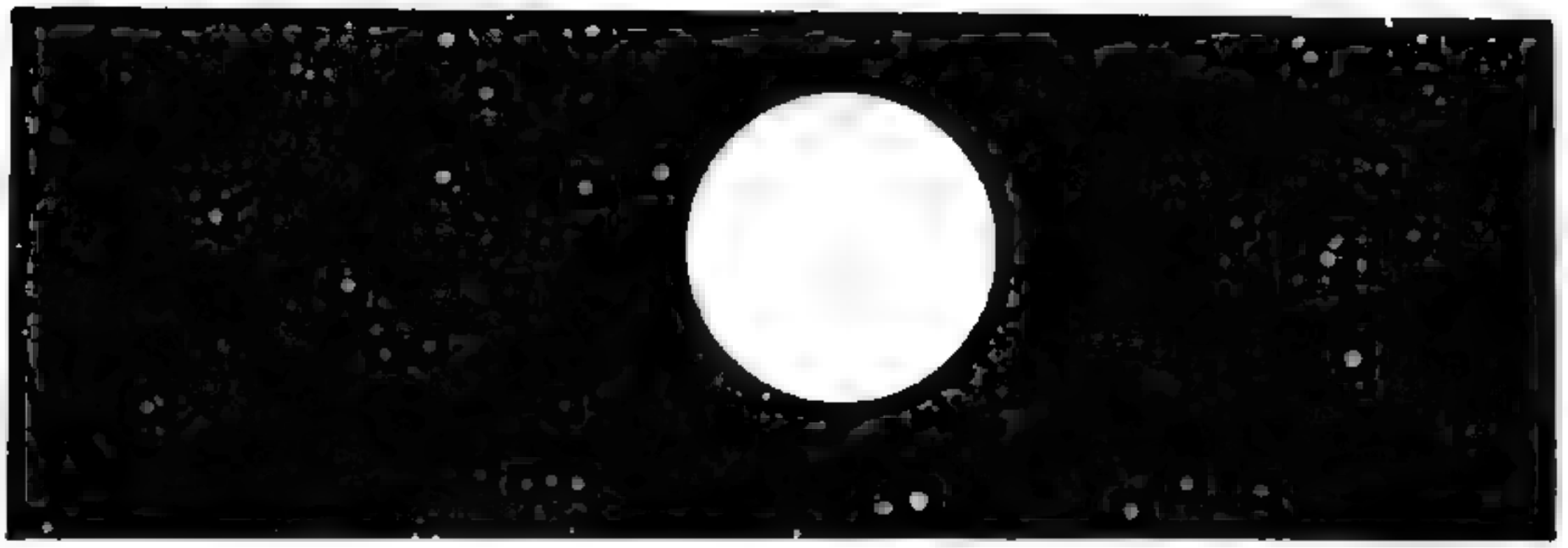



THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY! FALL BACK!


GAHHH!







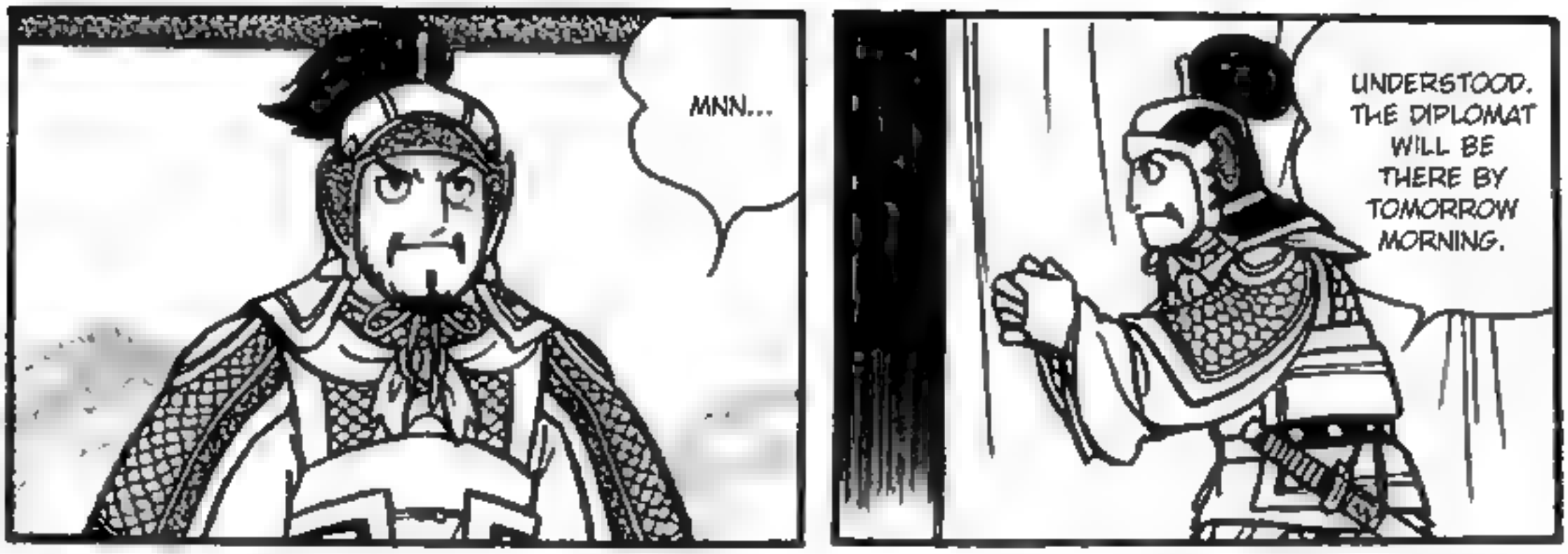

I CAN'T JUST LET MY NEPHEW DIE...


TO THINK THAT XIAHOU SHANG WOULD BE TAKEN PRISONER...


MN...


HAVE HIM TELL HUANG ZHONG THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGING CHEN SHI FOR XIAHOU SHANG.


YES, SIR.
SEND A MESSENGER TO HUANG ZHONG'S CAMPS.


MNN...
UNDERSTOOD. THE DIPLOMAT WILL BE THERE BY TOMORROW MORNING.

LET HIM IN.
HM...
SIR, IT APPEARS AN ENEMY MESSENGER HAS COME.
YES, GENERAL.
DID XIAHOU YUAN SEND YOU?

IS THAT SO? I'D LIKE THAT TOO.

THE GENERAL EXPRESSES HIS DESIRE TO EXCHANGE CHEN SHI FOR XIAHOU SHANG, WHOM YOU'VE RECENTLY TAKEN PRISONER.

LET US EXCHANGE OUR PRISONERS TOMORROW MORNING BETWEEN OUR TWO CAMPS.

GOOD.

VERY WELL. I SHALL DELIVER YOUR REPLY IMMEDIATELY.

BOTH ARMIES FACED EACH OTHER OFF EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

YES, CHEN SHI IS HERE AND READY TO BE EXCHANGED.

I HAVE BROUGHT WITH ME THE PRISONER XIAHOU SHANG! HAVE YOU DONE THE SAME?

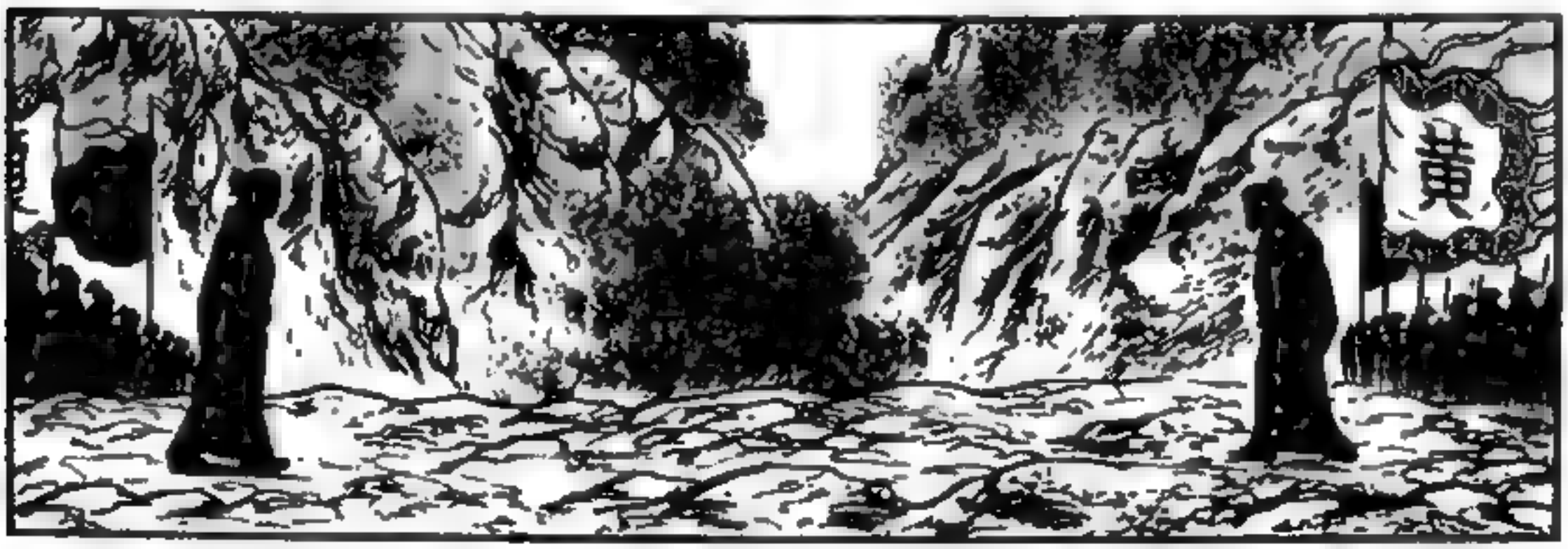

BOTH SIDES WILL RELEASE THEIR PRISONER ON THE COUNT OF THREE!


THEN LET US BEGIN THE TRADE!


3!


2!


1!



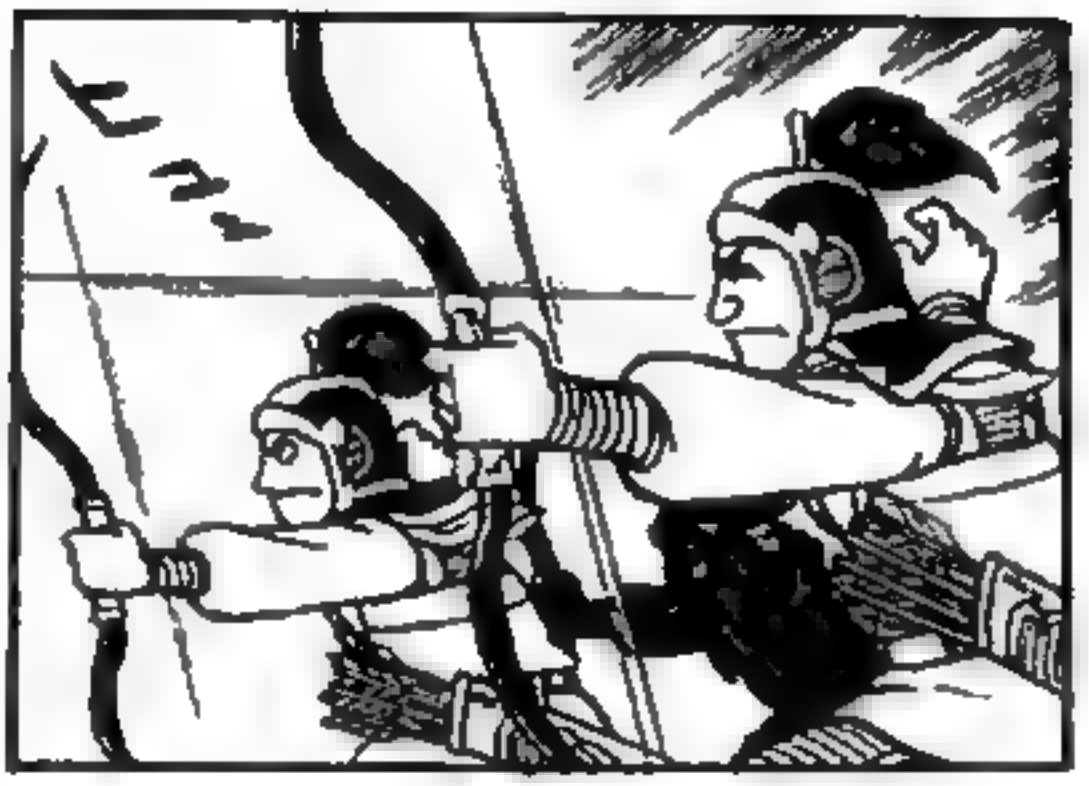


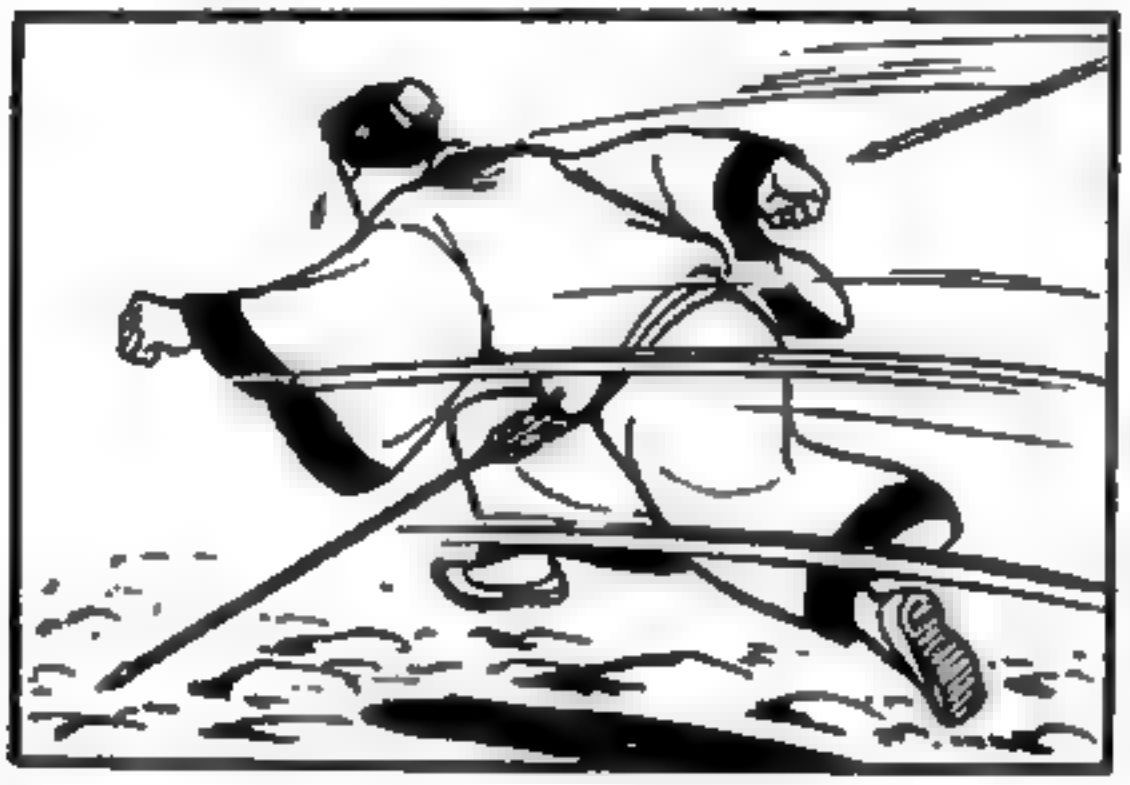


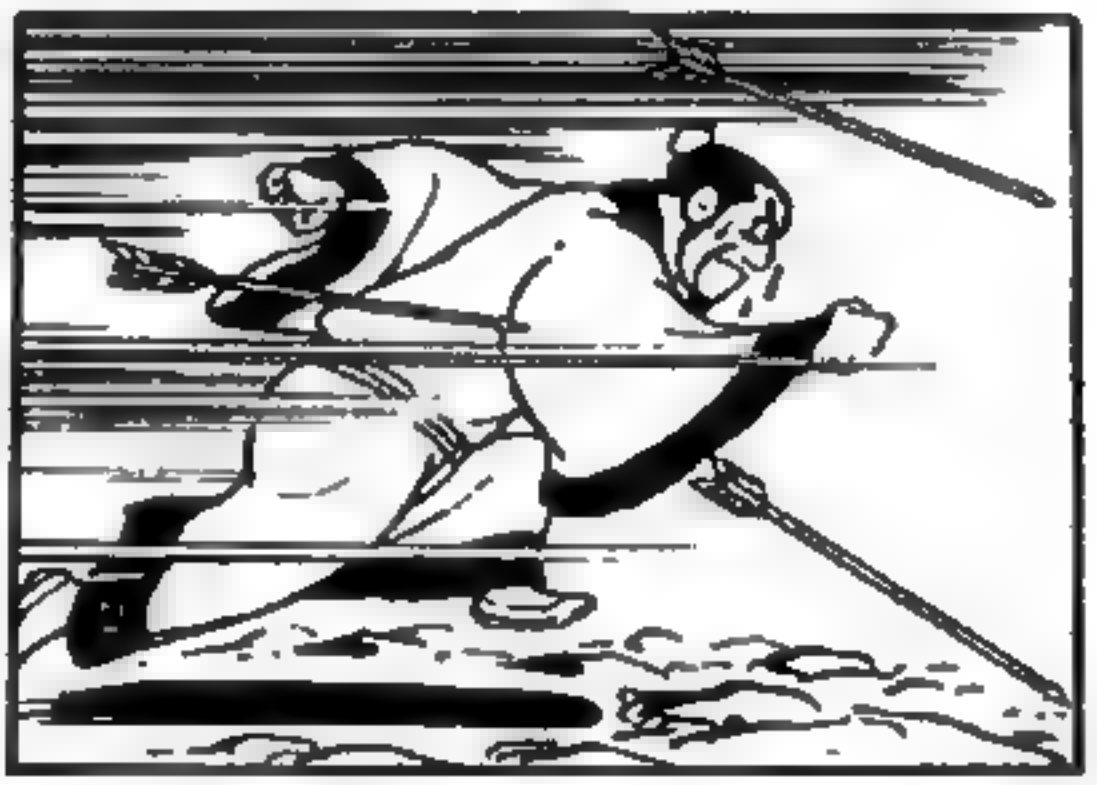


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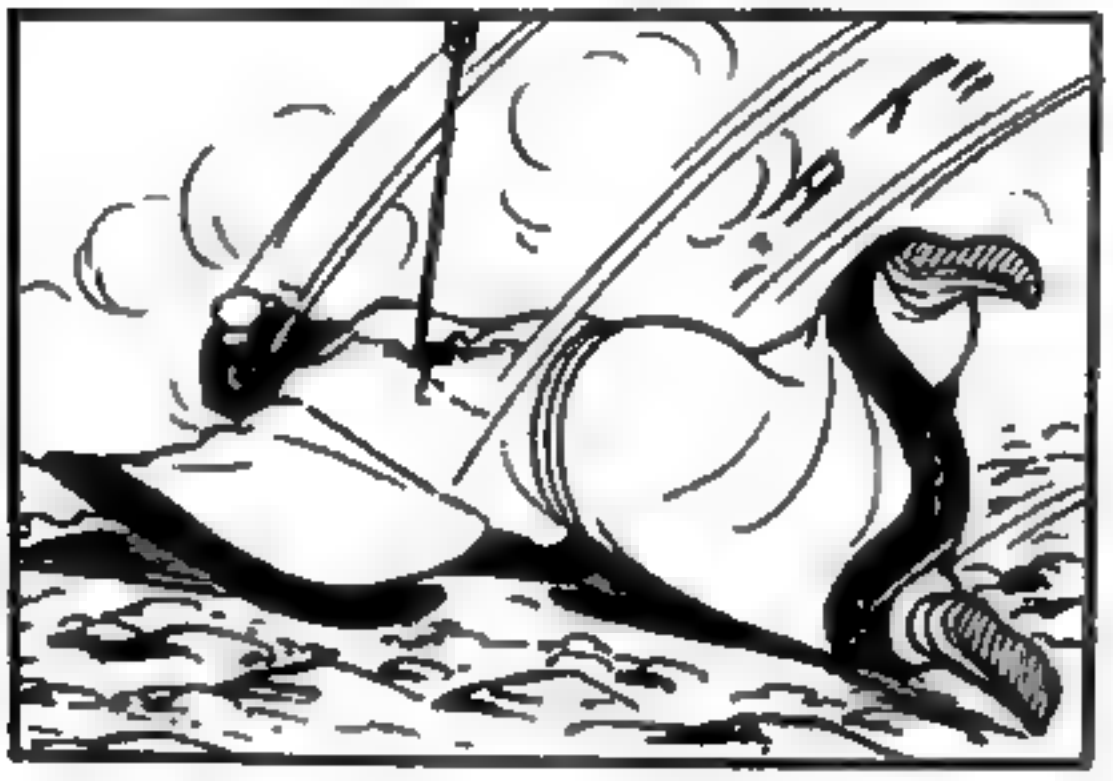








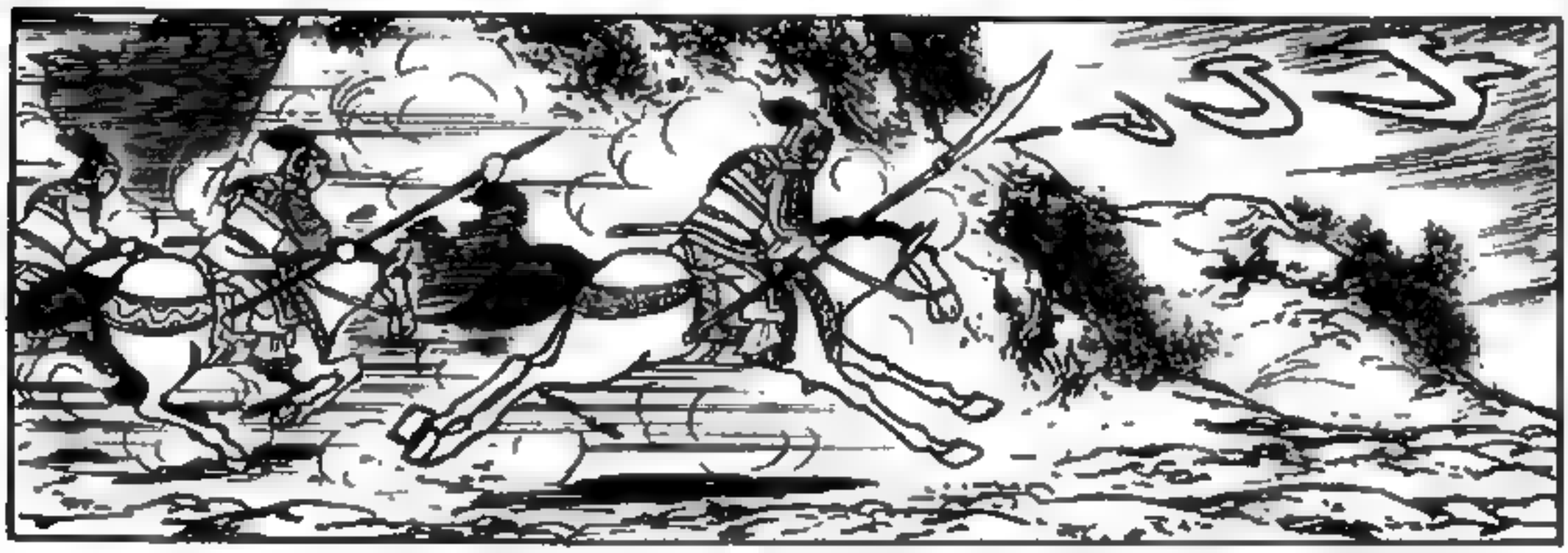


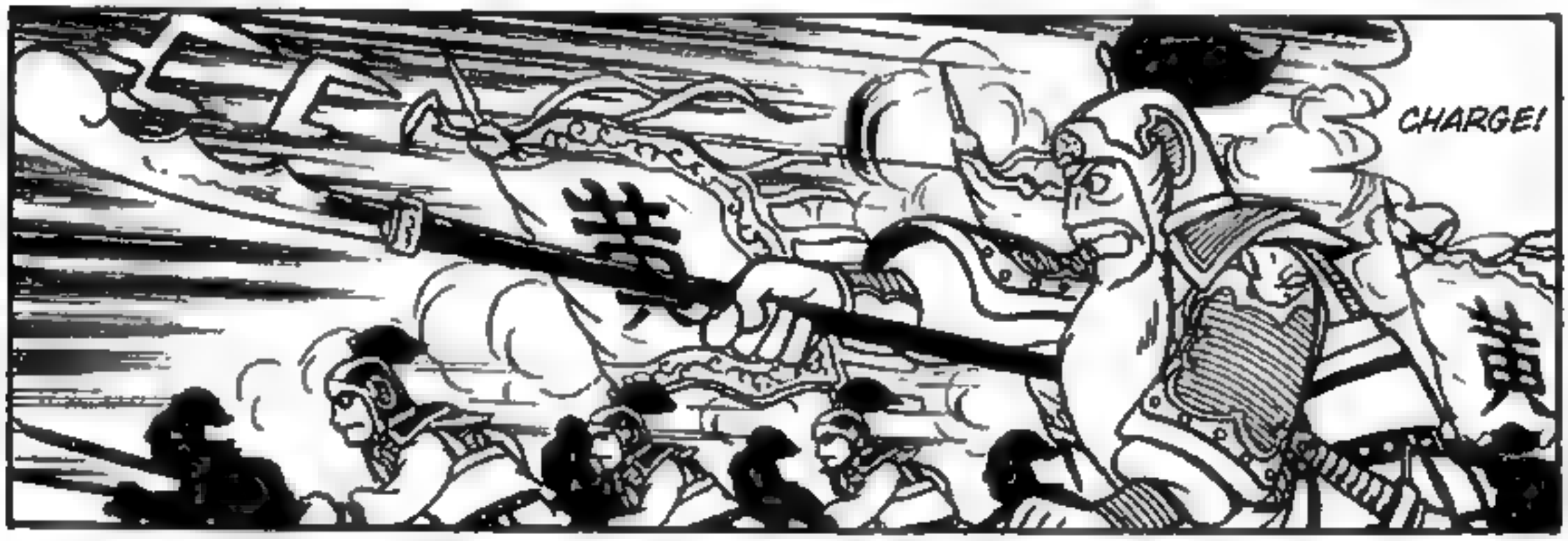





ATTACK THESE SHU SCUM!


SHANG!




CHARGE!

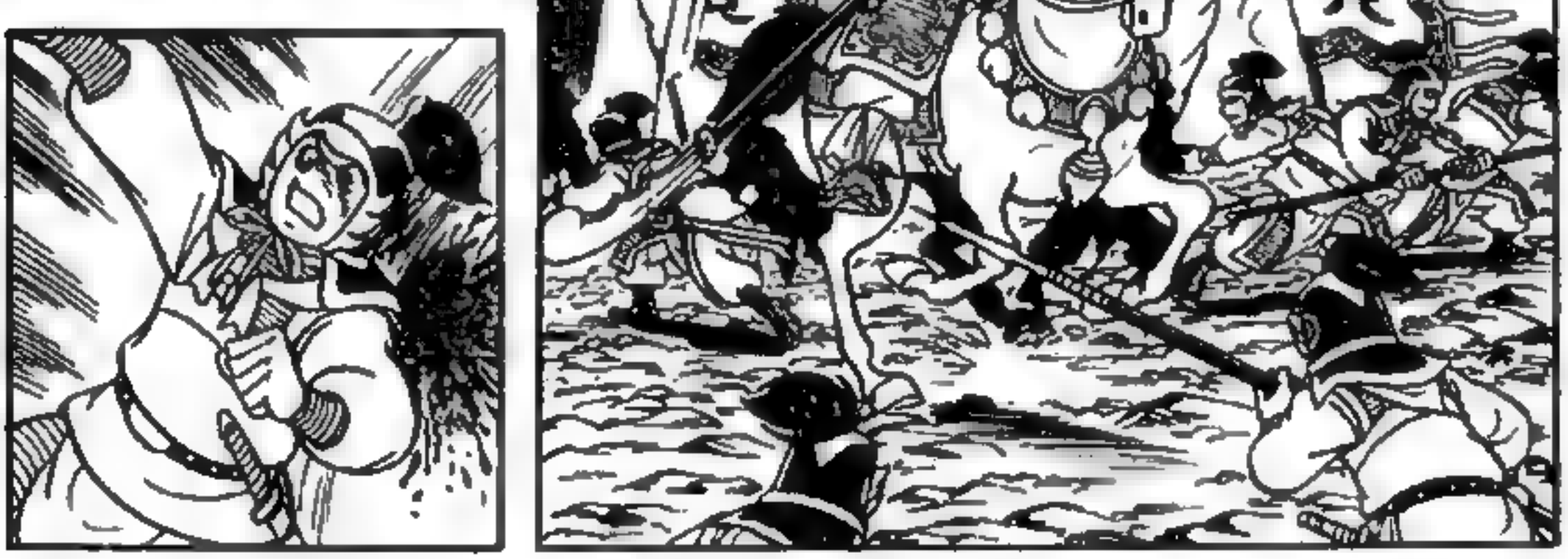



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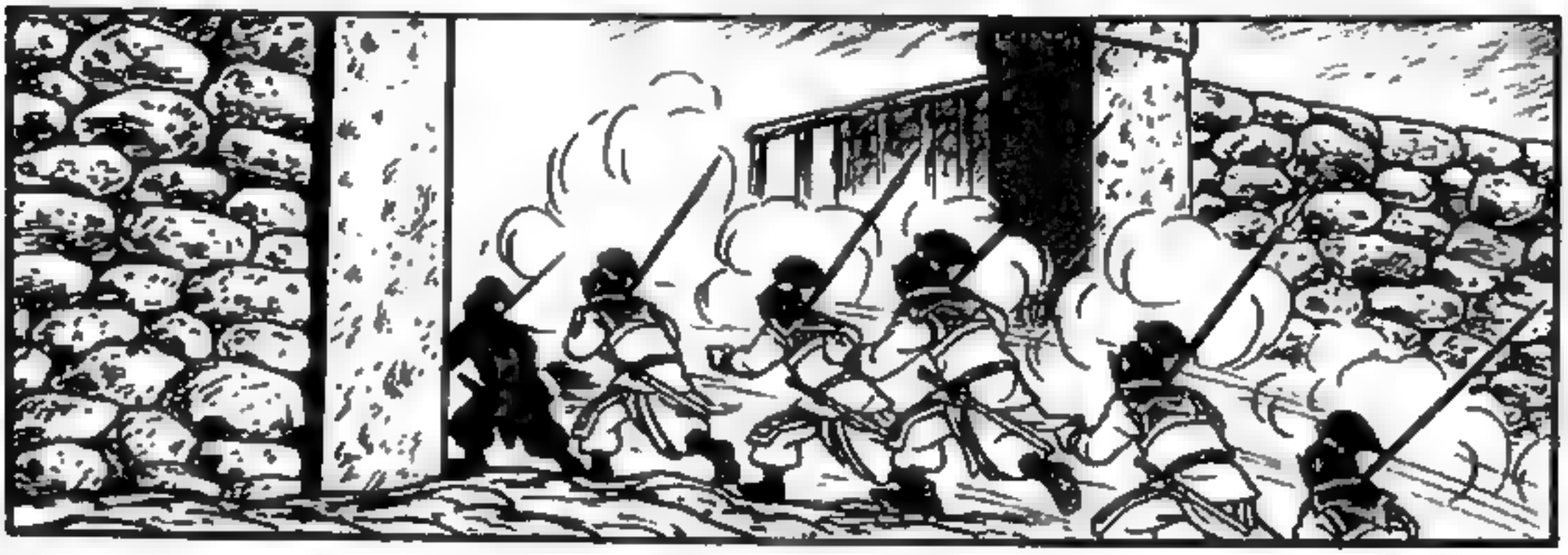



THAT'S THE SOUND TO RETREAT!


HM?




WITHDRAW!
WITHDRAW!



I COULD SEE SHU BANNERS STATIONED HERE AND THERE ALL OVER THE HILLS. THUS, FEARING AN AMBUSH, I GAVE THE ORDER TO RETREAT AT ONCE.

ZHANG HE! WHY DID YOU GIVE THE SIGNAL TO RETREAT!?

WHAT!?

DON'T TELL ME YOU PANICKED AND STARTED SEEING THINGS, DID YOU...

I SWEAR THEY WERE THERE A MOMENT AGO...

I DON'T SEE ANY SHU TROOP FLAGS...

NGHH...

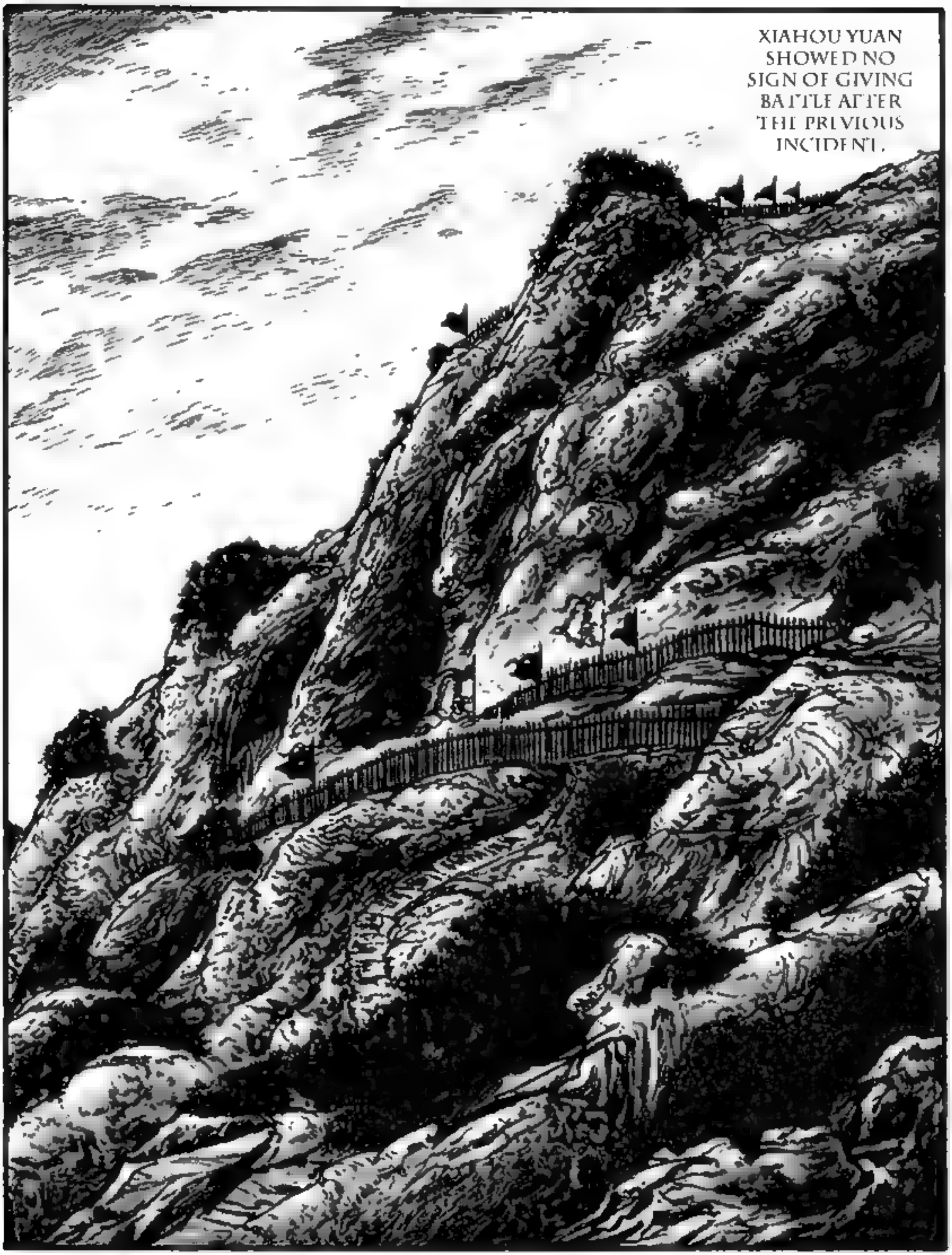
YES, WE ALL SAW THEM!

WHAT GENERAL ZHANG HE SAYS IS TRUE! I SAW THEM TOO!

I WANT THE PATROL INCREASED AND THE GUARDS ON MAXIMUM ALERT!

WELL WE CAN'T JUST KEEP STANDING AROUND IF HUANG ZHONG'S GOT MORE TROOPS HIDING AROUND THESE HILLS.

LEERING DOWN



I'VE BEEN SURVEYING THE AREA FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE, GENERAL.

FA ZHENG, THE ENEMY IS TURTLING ONCE AGAIN. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO DRAW HIM OUT FROM HIS SHELL?

THAT ONE...?

I BELIEVE TAKING THAT HILL WILL BE OUR BEST OPTION.

VERY WELL, I SHALL QUICKLY SET ABOUT CAPTURING IT.

I SEE.

THERE ARE ONLY A HUNDRED OR SO WEI TROOPS DEFENDING THAT HILL. CAPTURING IT WILL GIVE US A COMMANDING VIEW OF THE ENEMY CAMPS, WHICH WILL AID US GREATLY.

YES, AND I WILL LAY OUT OUR CONSEQUENT PLANS AFTERWARDS.


HUANG ZHONG'S TROOPS SET FORTH TO CAPTURE THIS TALL HILL TO THE WEST OF MT. DINGJUN.
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FINDING THEMSELVES GREATLY OUTNUMBERED, THE WEI TROOPS QUICKLY ABANDONED THEIR POSITION


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YES, I CAN EVEN SEE THEIR TROOPS MOVING ABOUT.
LOOK! YOU CAN SEE THE ENEMY'S CAMPS AS EASILY AS LOOKING AT YOUR OWN HAND!
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YES, AND IT WILL PROVE TO BE TOO MUCH TO BEAR FOR XIAHOU YUAN.
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VERY WORRIED.
NOW HOW MIGHT YOU FEEL AS A GENERAL IF YOUR ENEMIES COULD LEER DOWN AT YOUR CAMPS AND TROOP POSITIONS ALL DAY?

AH.

AND THAT'LL BE OUR CHANCE TO END THIS DRAWN-OUT AFFAIR.

EXACTLY.

YOU MEAN HE'LL COME TO TRY AND TAKE THIS HILL?

FINE.

HIDE YOUR TROOPS IN THE HILLS HERE FOR AN AMBUSH WHEN XIAHOU YUAN APPROACHES, GENERAL. I WILL STAND HERE WAVING A WHITE FLAG AND GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK BY SWITCHING TO A RED FLAG.

LET'S HOPE XIAHOU YUAN'S PATIENCE QUICKLY RUNS THIN AS YOU PREDICT...

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BAH!

I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP LIKE THIS...

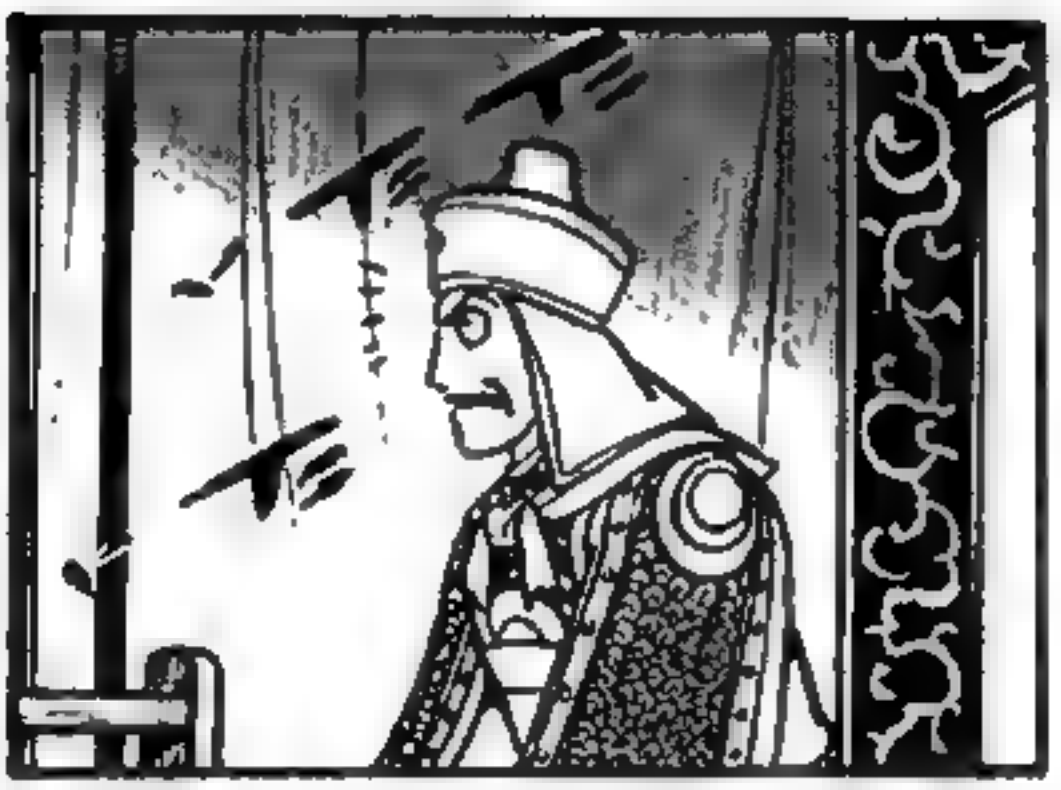
THE ENEMIES CAN SEE EACH AND EVERY ACTION WE TAKE ALL DAY LONG...

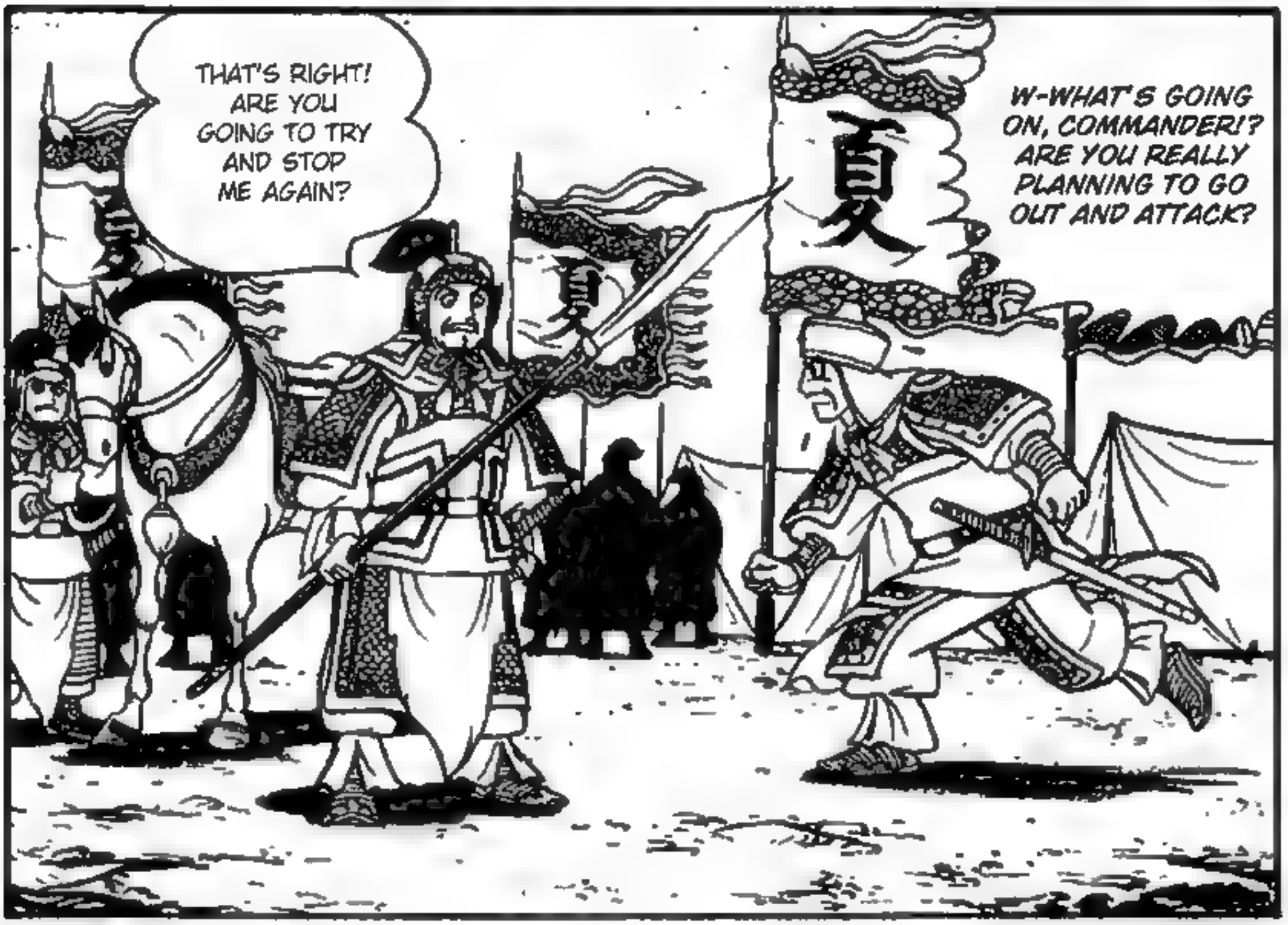
YES, SIR!

GIVE THE SIGNAL TO MARCH OUT!

THAT DOES IT!






THAT'S RIGHT! ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND STOP ME AGAIN?
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W-WHAT'S GOING ON, COMMANDER!? ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO GO OUT AND ATTACK?


THE ENEMIES CAN SEE EVERY ACTION WE TAKE AND ARE PLANNING ACCORDINGLY! WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THIS BASE WILL LAST IF WE SIMPLY STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE!


I STRONGLY ADVISE WE HOLD OUT UNTIL OUR REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE!


MOVE OUT!


YOU CAN STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER THE CAMPS IF YOU DISAGREE.
I CAN'T EVEN PLAN OR SLEEP IN THIS STATE! WE HAVE TO RETAKE THAT HILL!




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RIGHT.

LET'S PROCEED AS PLANNED. PLACE YOUR TROOPS FOR AN AMBUSH. I'LL STAY HERE AND GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL WITH MY FLAGS.

YES.

IT SEEMS OUR FRIEND'S PATIENCE HAS FINALLY RAN OUT.

YES, I REMEMBER.

ONLY ATTACK ONCE I WAVE THE RED FLAG.


HIDE YOURSELVES AROUND THIS POSITION!

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HUANG ZHONG! I HAVE COME DOWN LIKE SO TO GIVE BATTLE! WILL YOU NOT HONOURABLY DO THE SAME!?

FINE, THEN LET US PROVOKE THEM INTO ATTACKING!

NGHH...

THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING AT ALL, SIR.

FIGHT US, YOU COWARDS!

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY FROM SHU FOR IF YOU WON'T EVEN FIGHT!?

HEY, COME ON DOWN, YOU PANSIES!

YELLOW-BELLIED MONGRELS!

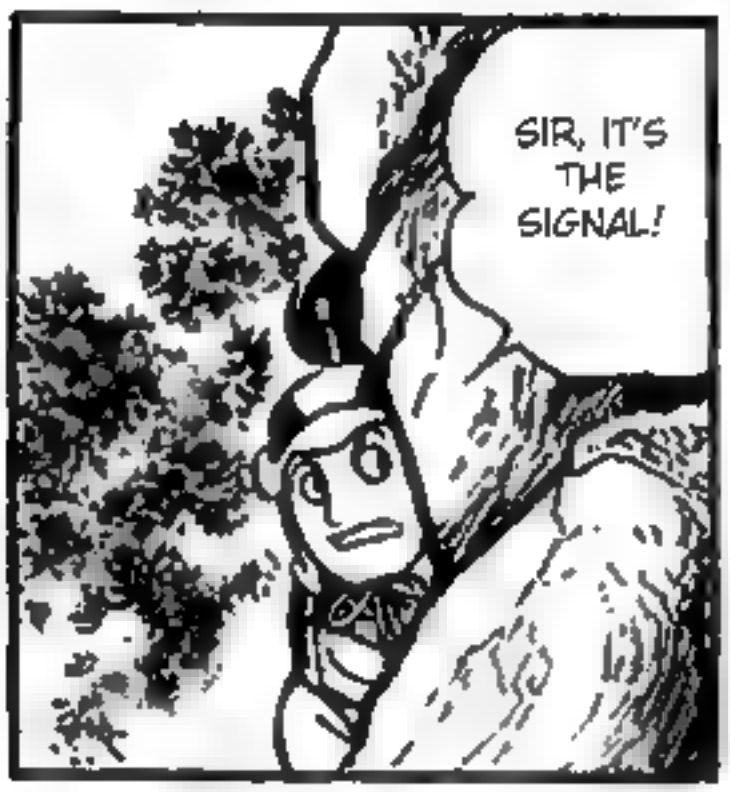
COME DOWN AND FIGHT!

GET THE HELL OFF OUR LAND IF YOU WON'T EVEN FIGHT!


ATTACK!
NGHH... IF THEY'RE TOO SCARED TO GIVE US BATTLE, THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BRING IT TO THEM!


YES, SIR.


HAND ME THE RED FLAG.


SIR, IT'S THE SIGNAL!




GOOD.


ATTACK!


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IT'S AN AMBUSH!


AHH!


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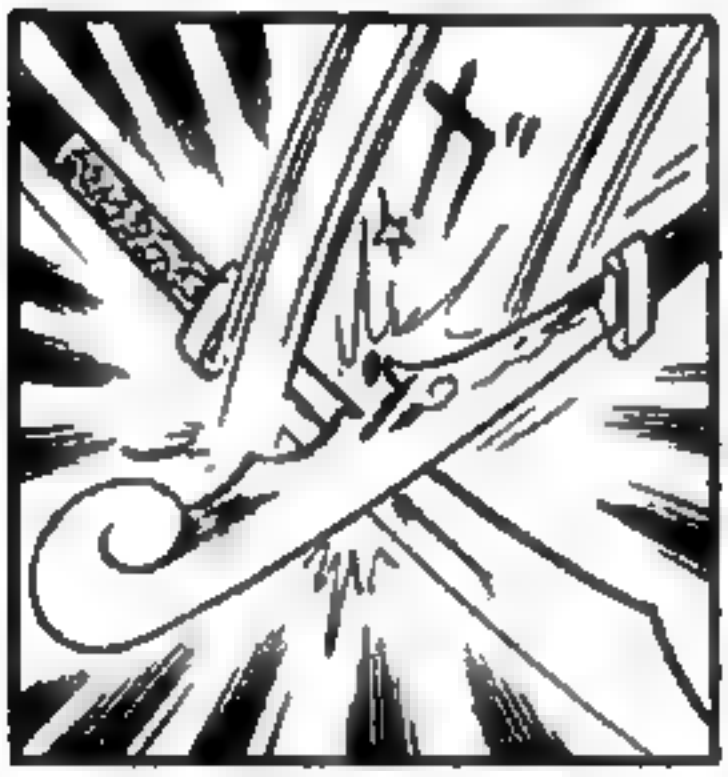



I COULDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE!

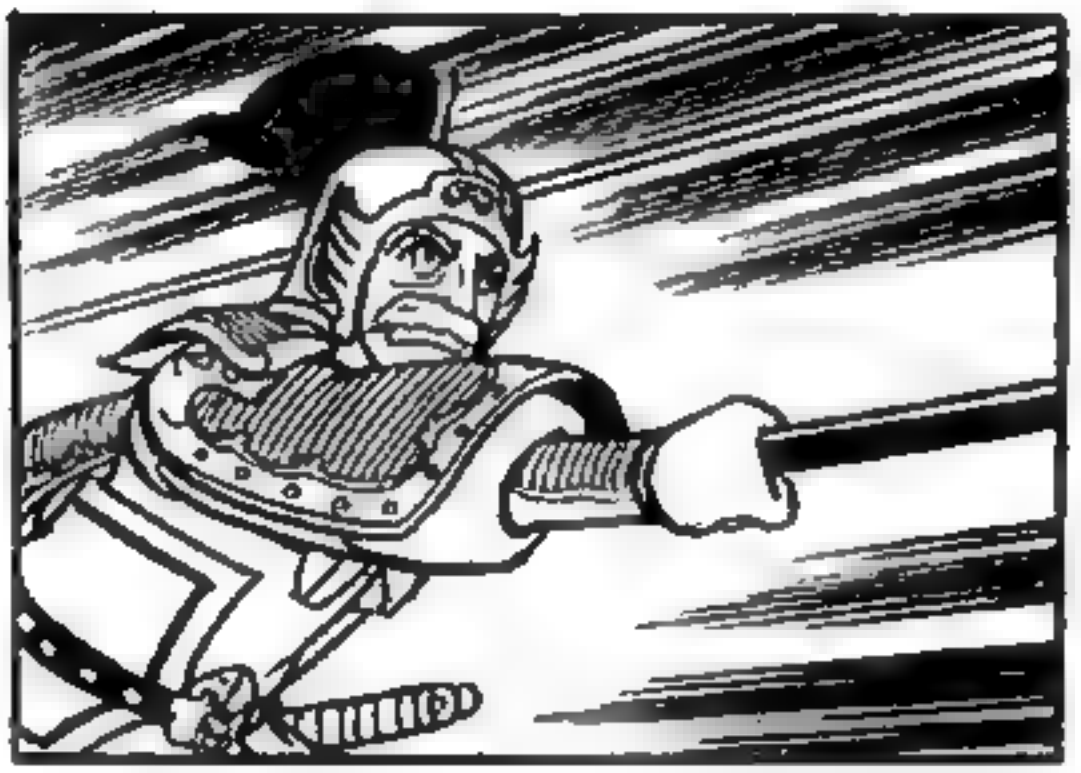

XIAHOU YUAN! FIGHT ME!



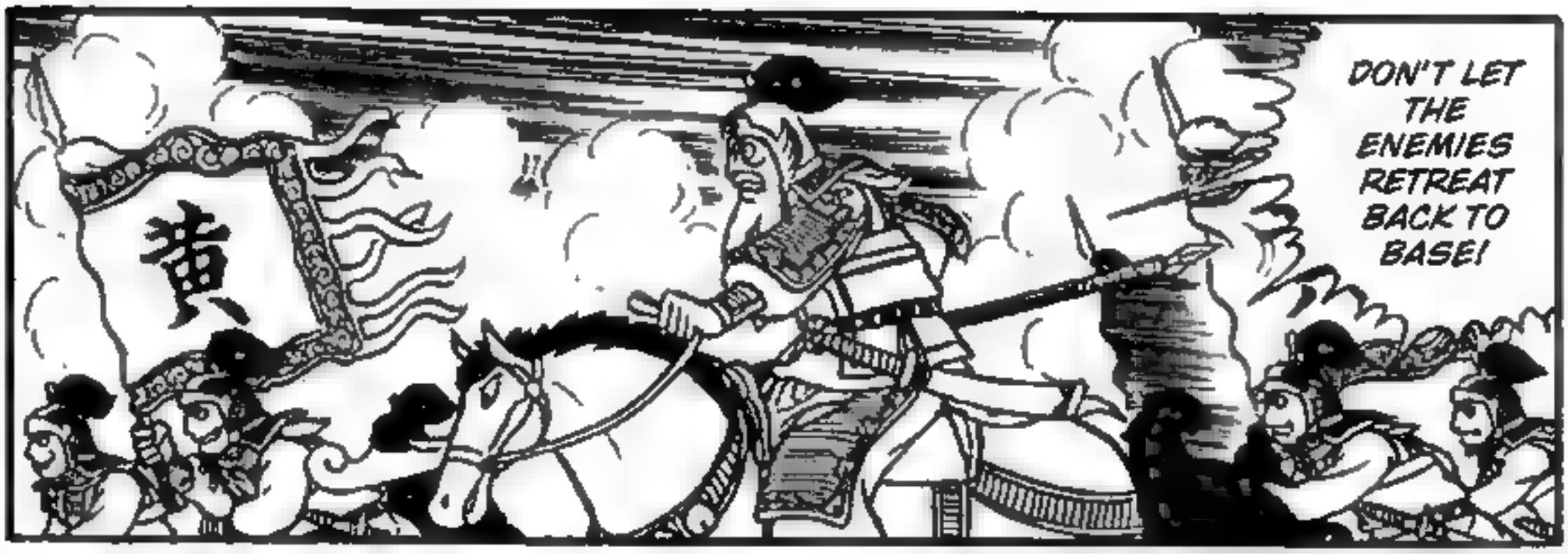


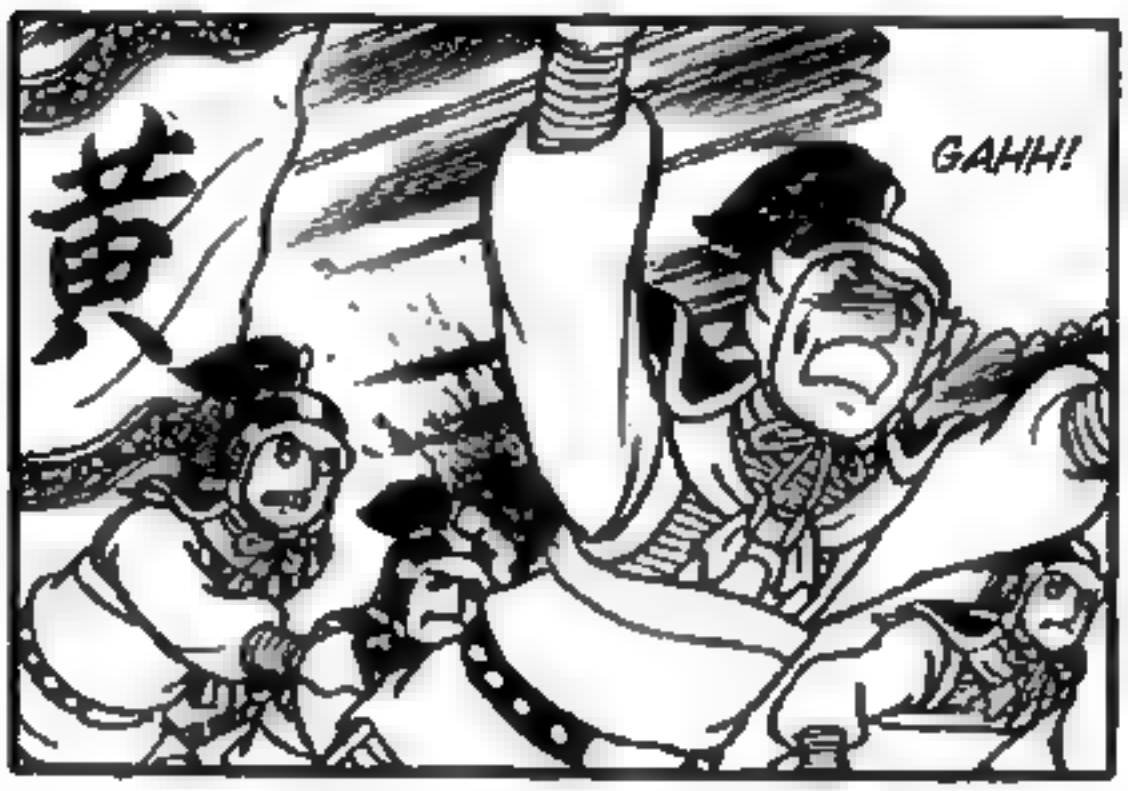







AHH!
WHA-
I, HUANG ZHONG, HAVE SLAIN XIAHOU YUAN!


DON'T LET THE ENEMIES RETREAT BACK TO BASE!


GAHH!

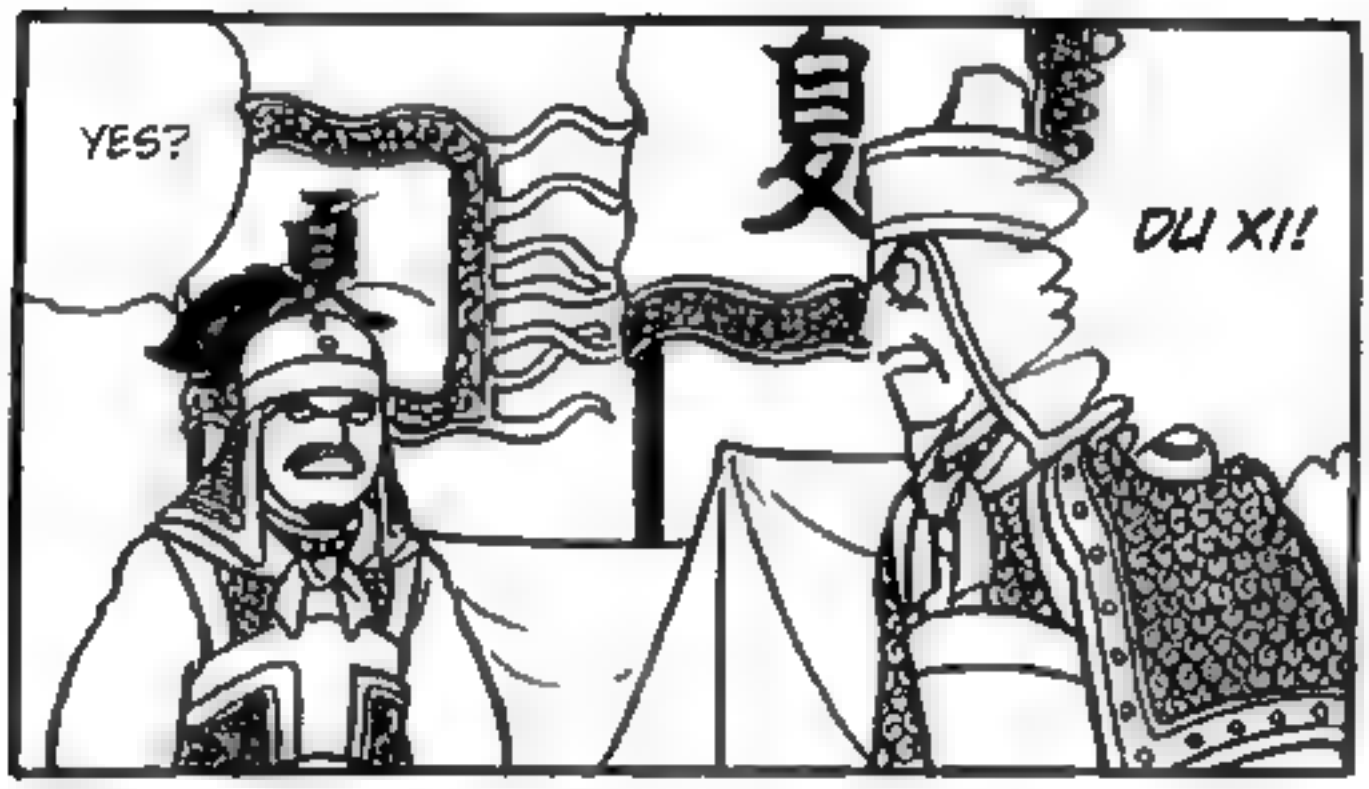



DON'T LET UP! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO CRUSH THEM!

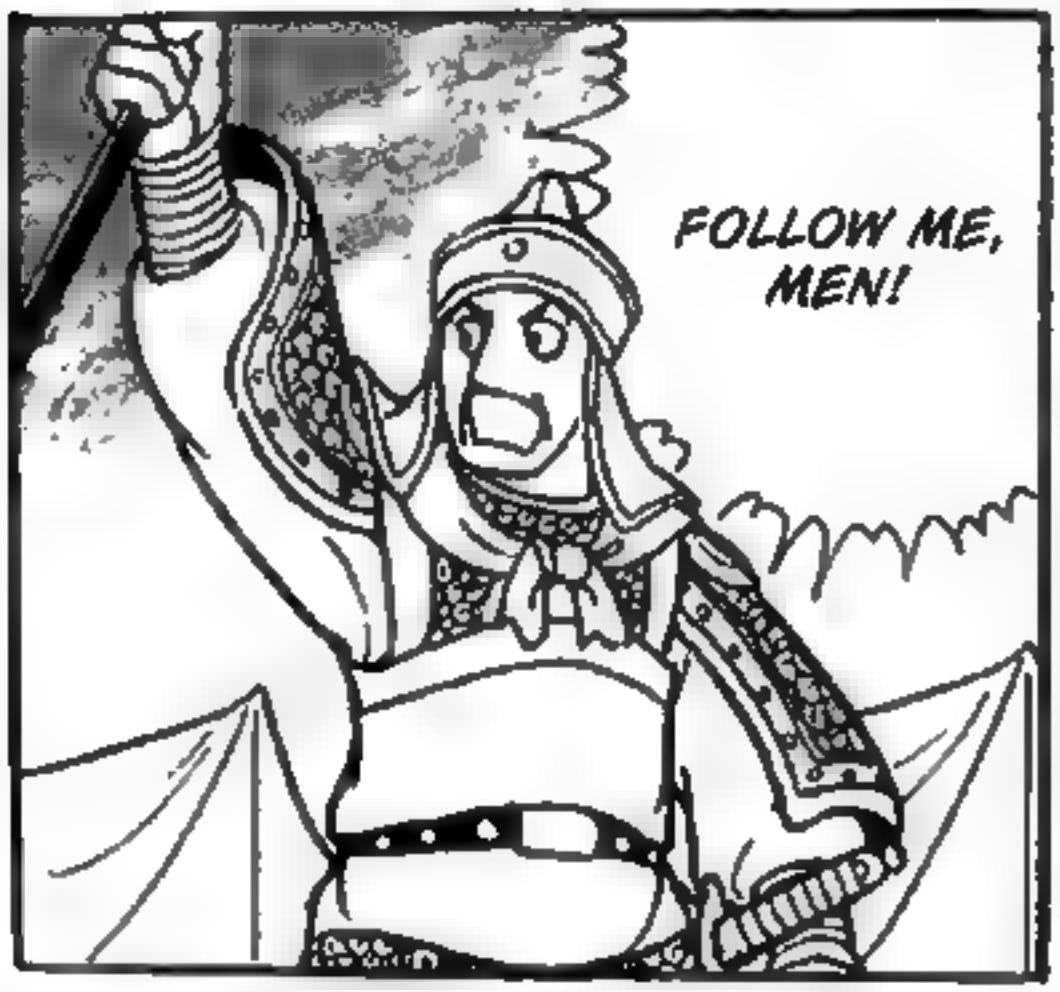

RUN FOR IT!

YES, OUR TROOPS HAVE SCATTERED AND THE ENEMIES ARE RIDING THE MOMENTUM TO STORM OUR BASE HERE!

WHAT!? XIAHOU YUAN FELL IN BATTLE!?


YES?
DU XI!


GOOD LORD...


FOLLOW ME, MEN!


RIGHT!
I'LL TRY TO RESCUE OUR PANICKED FORCES OUTSIDE. STAY HERE AND GUARD THE BASE.



HM?

THAT BANNER... ZHAO ZILONG OF SHU...!?

AH! NOW, I SEE! HIS TROOPS MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONES I SAW LAST TIME!

WHEN DID HE...


張郃
WITHDRAW BACK TO BASE BEFORE OUR RETREAT ROUTE IS CUT OFF!


張郃




AHH!

DU XI!? WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE!?

ZHANG HE!

MORE SHU TROOPS!?

AFTER YOU LEFT, ENEMY FORCES LED BY LIU FENG AND MENG DA APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND TOOK MT. DINGJUN!

NGHH...

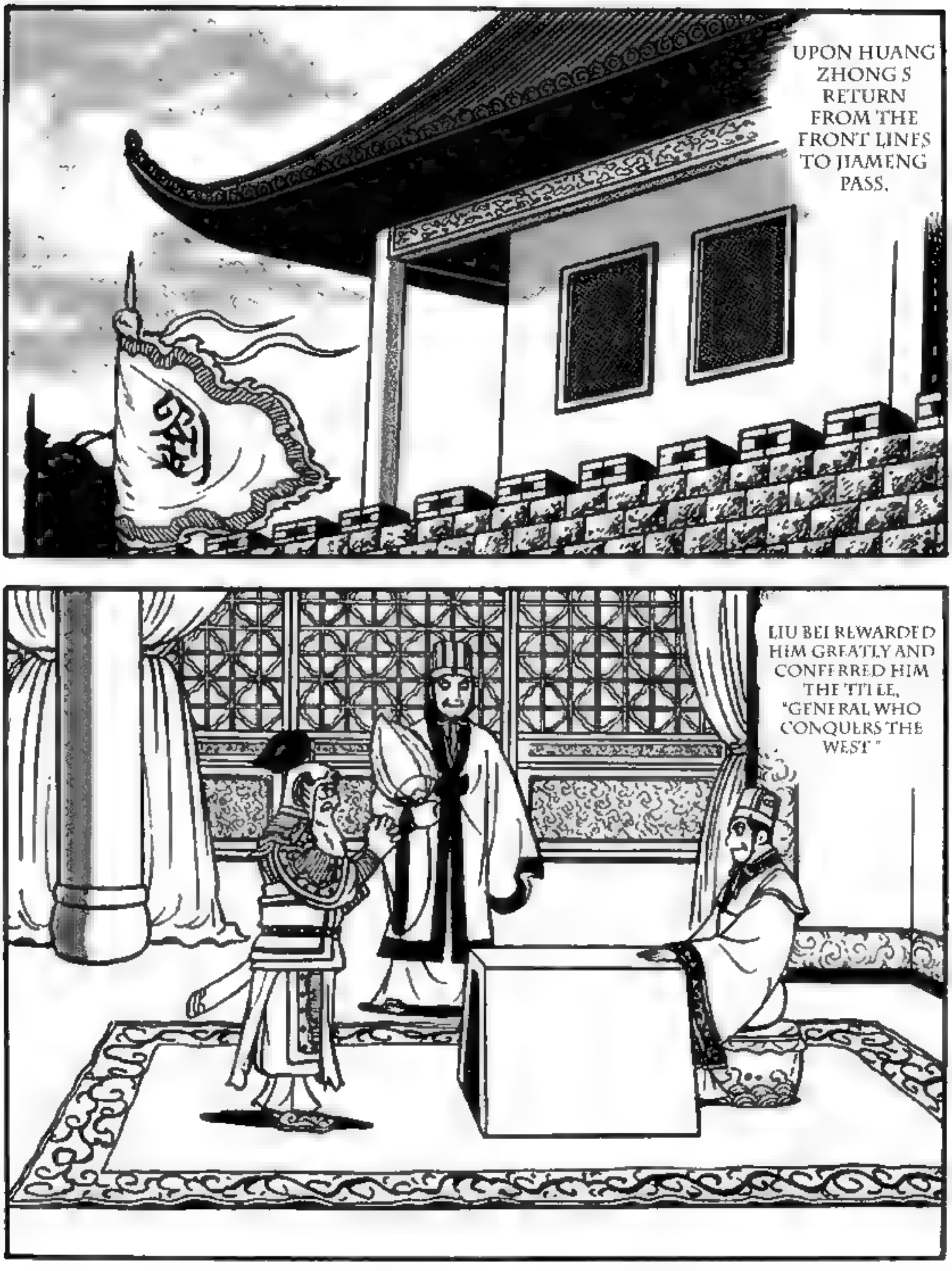
WE'VE BEEN FAR TOO DISTRACTED BY HUANG ZHONG! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SHU TROOPS PLACED ALL AROUND HERE JUST WAITING TO STRIKE!





WITH BACK-TO-BACK CRUSHING DEFEATS AT TIANDANG AND MT. DINGJUN, THE WEI TROOPS RETREATED DEJECTEDLY ALL THE WAY TO THE HAN RIVER

ZHAO ZILONG


UPON HUANG ZHONG S RETURN FROM THE FRONT LINES TO JIAMENG PASS.
LIU BEI REWARDED HIM GREATLY AND CONFERRED HIM THE TITLE, "GENERAL WHO CONQUERS THE WEST."

JUST THEN, A MESSENGER ALSO RETURNED FROM THE FRONT LINES

CAO CAO HIMSELF HAS SET OUT ON THIS CAMPAIGN?

ENRAGED BY XIAHOU YUAN'S DEATH, CAO CAO HAS QUICKLY MOVED UP HIS 200,000-STRONG ARMY TO THE HAN RIVER, MY LORD.

RELOCATING HIS SUPPLY STORES?

YES, AND HE'S ALSO STARTED TO RELOCATE HIS SUPPLY STORES IN MICANG HILLS TO BEISHAN.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS THE PERFECT WEAK POINT TO EXPLOIT.

IT'S EVIDENT CAO CAO'S NUMBER ONE WORRY IS HOW TO KEEP HIS ENORMOUS ARMY FED, MY LORD.

ROBBING THEM OF THEIR SUPPLIES WILL BE THE GREATEST VICTORY OF THIS CAMPAIGN AS OF YET.

THIS ROLE REQUIRES ONE TO PENETRATE DEEP WITHIN ENEMY TERRITORY. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIGHT AS YOU NORMALLY DO.

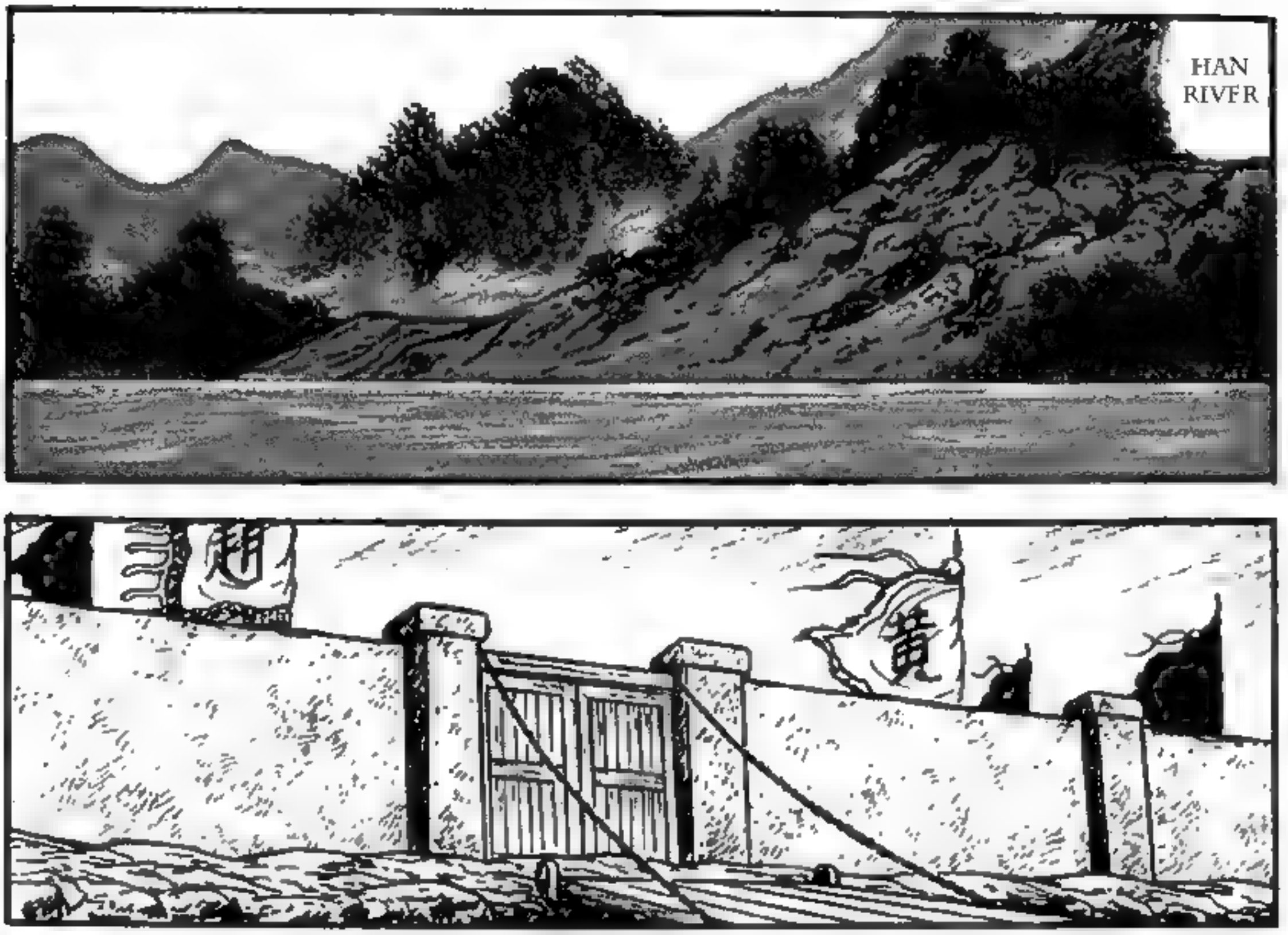
I NOMINATE MYSELF FOR THAT ROLE.

VERY WELL, BUT TAKE ZHAO ZILONG AS YOUR SECOND AND CONSULT WITH HIM AT LENGTH ON EVERY ACTION YOU TAKE.

A GENERAL CAN NEVER ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IF HE FEARS DEATH!

THANK YOU. I PROMISE TO DELIVER TO THOSE WEI TROOPS THE TERROR OF STARVATION.

AND SO HUANG ZHONG SET OUT FOR THE HAN RIVER WITH ZHAO ZILONG AS HIS DEPUTY GENERAL.


HAN
RIVER
HA! I DO NOT ACCEPT MISSIONS ONLY WHEN I HAVE A PLAN BEFOREHAND. A WARRIOR WHO CANNOT BRING VICTORY IS BETTER OFF DEAD... THAT BELIEF IS WHAT HAS SPURRED ME ON TO ACCEPT CHALLENGE AFTER CHALLENGE TO THIS DAY.
WE'LL SOON REACH THE ENEMY BASE. DID YOU ALREADY HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN THAT MADE YOU SO EAGER TO ACCEPT THIS MISSION?

NO, I ACCEPTED THIS MISSION FULLY AWARE OF ITS DANGERS. AS MY DEPUTY-GENERAL, YOUR DUTY IS TO DEFEND WHILE I ATTACK.

IF YOU HAVE NO PLANS, THEN IT IS TOO DANGER-OUS FOR YOU TO LEAD THE VANGUARD. I SHALL DO SO IN YOUR STEAD.

YES, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

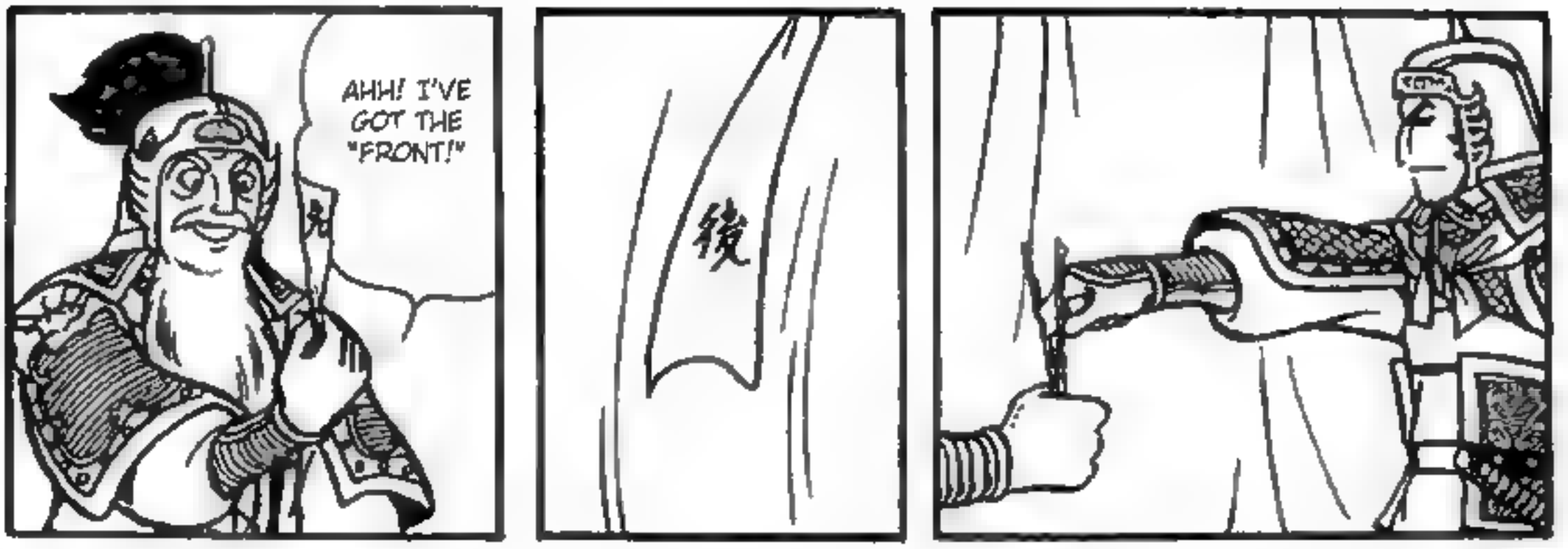
DRAWING STRAWS?

AS LONG AS WE ARE BOTH GENERALS SERVING THE SAME LORD, THERE ARE NO VALID DISTINCTIONS IN RANK BETWEEN US. LET US SETTLE THIS MATTER BY DRAWING STRAWS.

LET ME DRAW IT UP.

WRITTEN ON THESE PAPERS IS EITHER "FRONT" OR "REAR." CHOOSE.

先: FRONT　後: REAR




THEN I WILL CROSS THE HAN RIVER AT EARLY DAWN TOMORROW AND RAID BEISHAN. IF I DO NOT RETURN BY NOON, SEND REINFORCEMENTS.
NONE WHATSO-EVER.
NO COM-PLAINTS, I ASSUME?




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AH, THE SCOUT'S RETURNED.

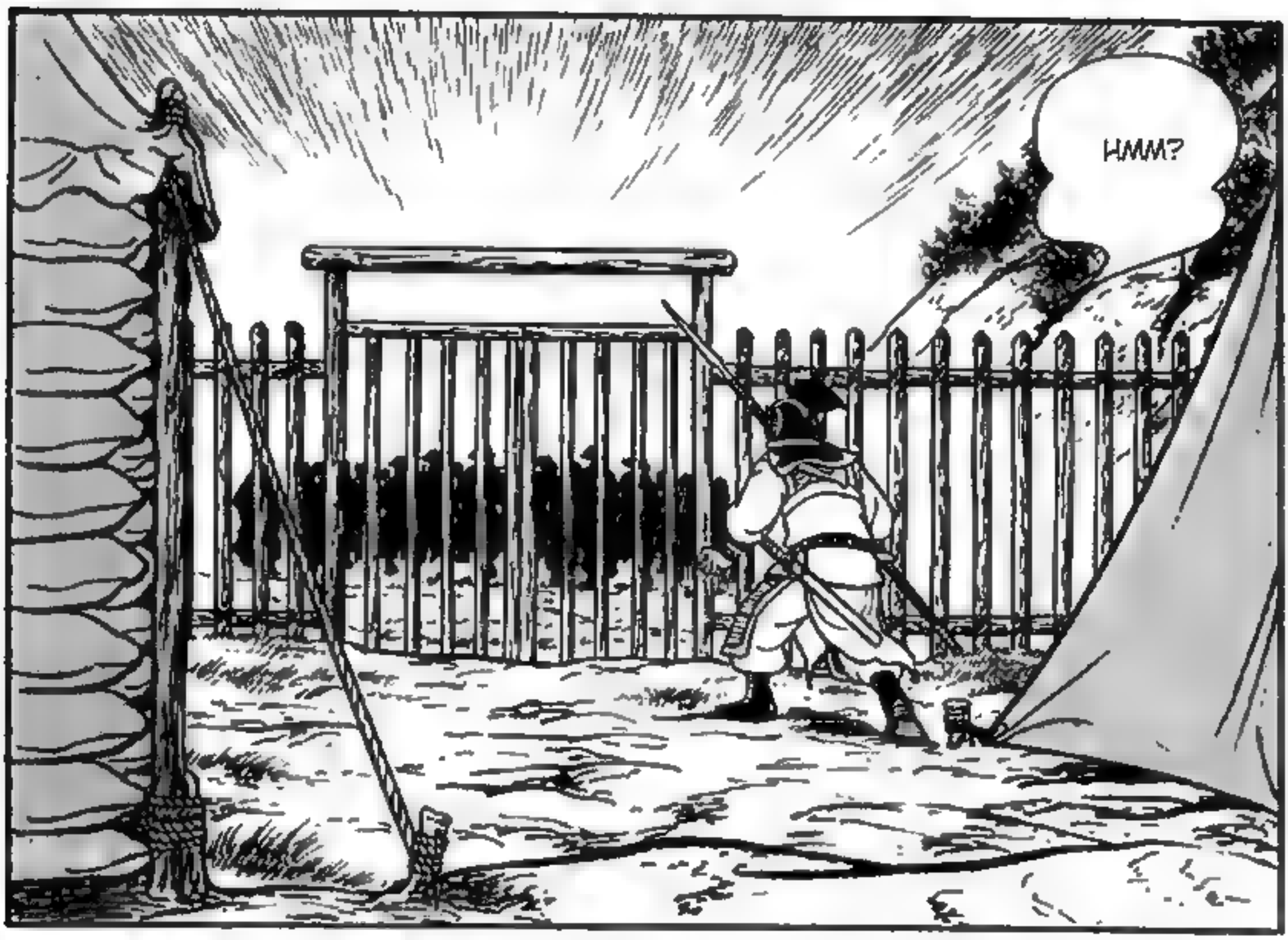


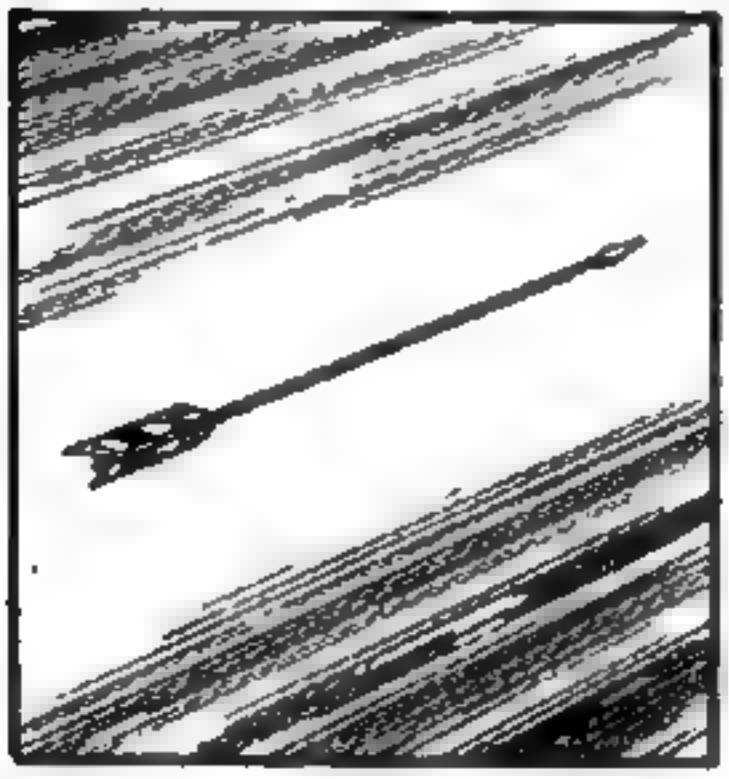

I SEE.


THERE WEREN'T AS MANY GUARDS AS I EXPECTED. I THINK MOST OF THEM ARE STILL ASLEEP, SIR.
WHAT'S THEIR STATUS?


LET US STORM THROUGH THEIR CAMPS AND BURN THEIR GRAIN!


ATTACK!


HMM?






W-WHO'S THERE!?



















張郃

張

張郃

FLAMES HAVE RISEN OVER IN BEISHAN HILLS!

WHAT IS IT!?

GENERAL!

AHHH!

WHAT!?


FOLLOW ME!


T-THIS IS A CATASTROPHE! THAT'S WHERE OUR GRAINS ARE STORED!


TE TE TE


AHH!

AH, IF IT ISN'T MY CHUM, ZHANG HE.

H-HUANG ZHONG!? YOU AGAIN!?

HA! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!

I'LL AVENGE XIAHOU YUAN'S DEATH HERE AND NOW!

BY THIS TIME CAO CAO COULD SEE THE SMOKES AT BEISHAN FROM HIS MAIN CAMPS

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YES, CHANCELLOR.

SOMETHING BAD MUST HAVE HAPPENED. GO TO BEISHAN AND RESPOND TO THE SITUATION ACCORDINGLY.

曹

YES?

XU HUANG!

徐晃

THE SMOKES COULD ALSO BE SEEN FROM ZHAO ZILONG'S CAMPS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER BY NOW

BUT WITH NOON FAST APPROACHING AND NO SIGNS OF HUANG ZHONG'S TROOPS, IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO SEND REINFORCE-MENTS EARLIER THAN PLANNED..

JUDGING BY THE SMOKE, HE MUST HAVE LIT THE R GRAIN STORES ON FIRE.

YES, SIR.

ZHANG YI! I'LL BE CROSSING THE RIVER WITH 3000 TROOPS TO AID HUANG ZHONG. YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF WATCHING OVER OUR BASE IN THE MEANTIME.

ATTACK!

ENEMIES!?

IF YOU MEAN THE ONES OVER AT BEISHAN, THEN THEY'RE AL.. DEAD BY NOW!

QUICKLY, MEN! WE MUST AID OUR COMRADES!

WHAT!?

IF TRUE, I WILL PUT HUANG ZHONG'S SPIRIT TO REST BY SKEWERING YOU ALL WITH MY SPEAR!

OH GOD...

AGHH!

FOLLOW MY LEAD!

HM?

HUANG ZHONG!

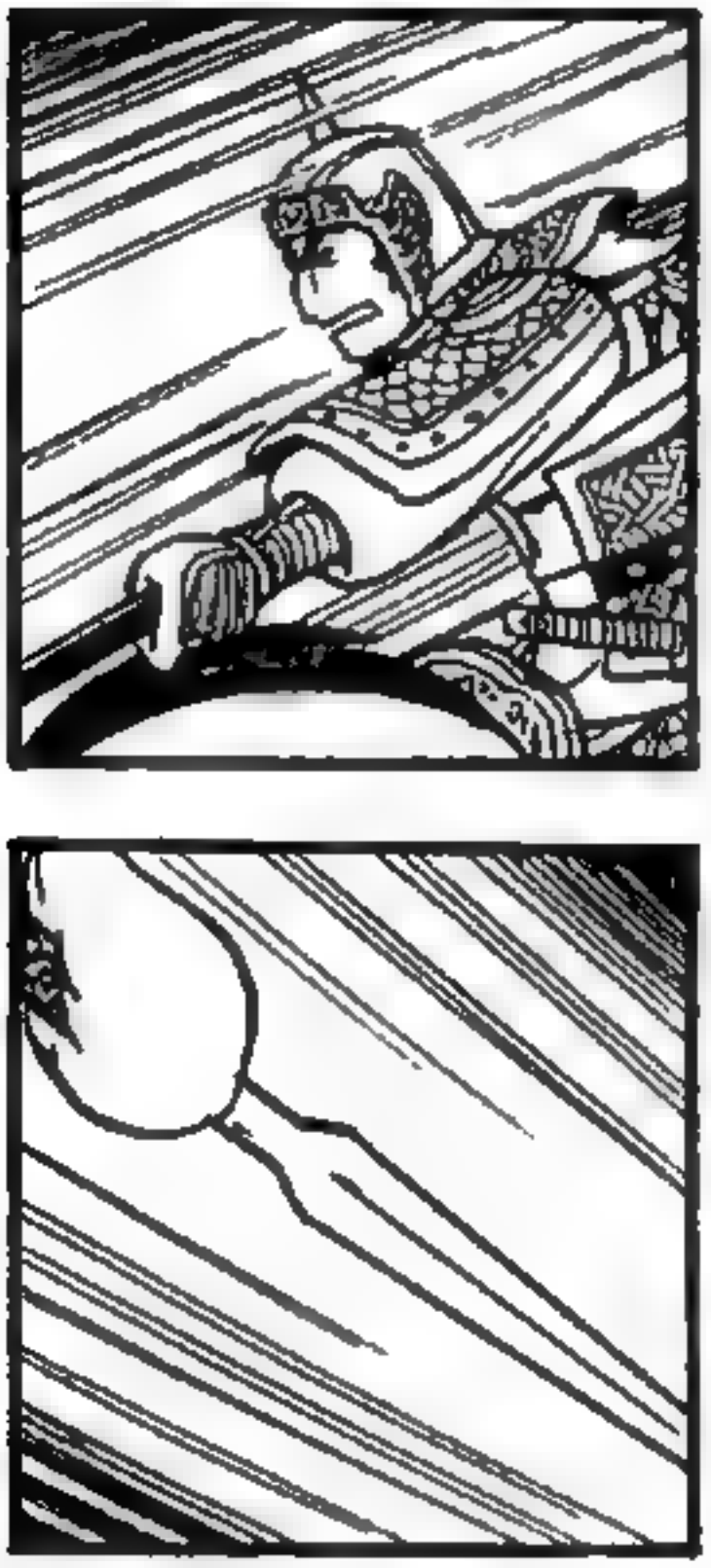
OHH! ZHAO YUN!

YOU CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME. I WAS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO DISPATCH ALL OF THESE ENEMIES ALONE.

YOU'RE ALIVE!

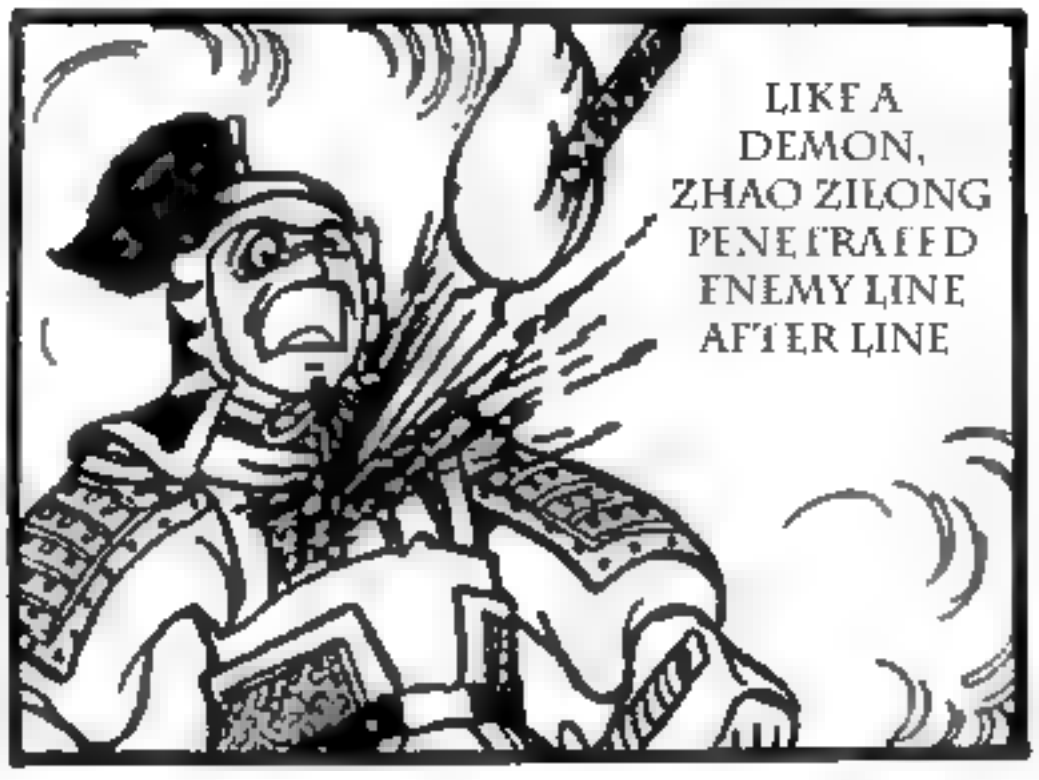

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!

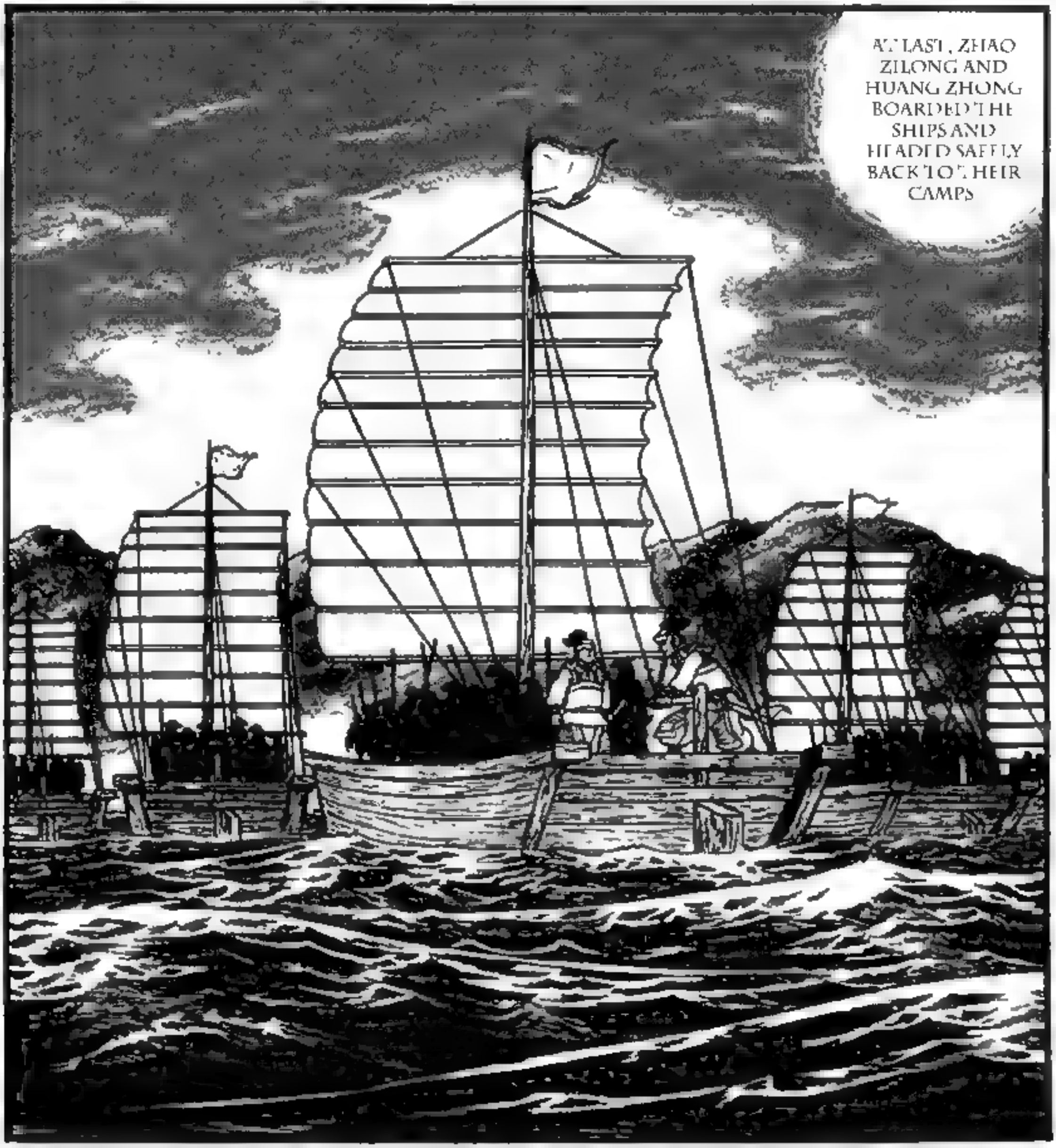

YES, LET'S BEAT THEM BACK AND CROSS THE RIVER TOGETHER!




ALL WHO VALUE THEIR LIVES CLEAR THE WAY AT ONCE!


ADVAN
CING WEI
TROOPS
SERVED
TO ONLY
FURTHER
PAINT HIS
SPEAR
BLOOD-
RED


LIKE A
DEMON,
ZHAO ZILONG
PENETRATED
ENEMY LINE
AFTER LINE


AT LAST, ZHAO ZILONG AND HUANG ZHONG BOARDED THE SHIPS AND HEADED SAFELY BACK TO THEIR CAMPS

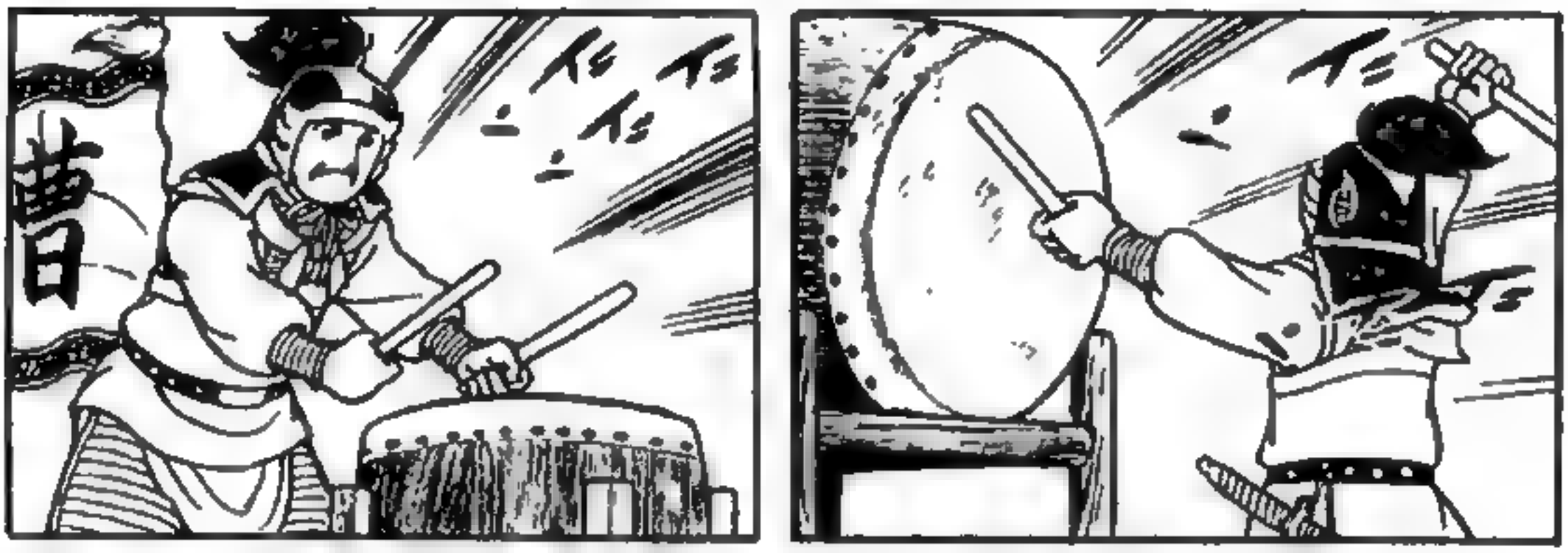
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WHAT!? ZHAO ZILONG SUDDENLY APPEARED TO SAFELY ESCORT HUANG ZHONG'S TROOPS BACK ACROSS THE RIVER!?

IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THOSE SCUM ONCE AND FOR ALL...

THIS IS ABUSRD! DO WE NOT HAVE HEROES OF OUR OWN THAT CAN CONTEND WITH ZHAO ZILONG!?


GIVE THE GENERAL SIGNAL TO ADVANCE!




CAO CAO'S ENTIRE ARMY BEGAN TO MARCH FORWARD

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THEY'RE COMING HERE...!?

SIR! THE WEI ARMY IS CLOSING IN OUR POSITION!

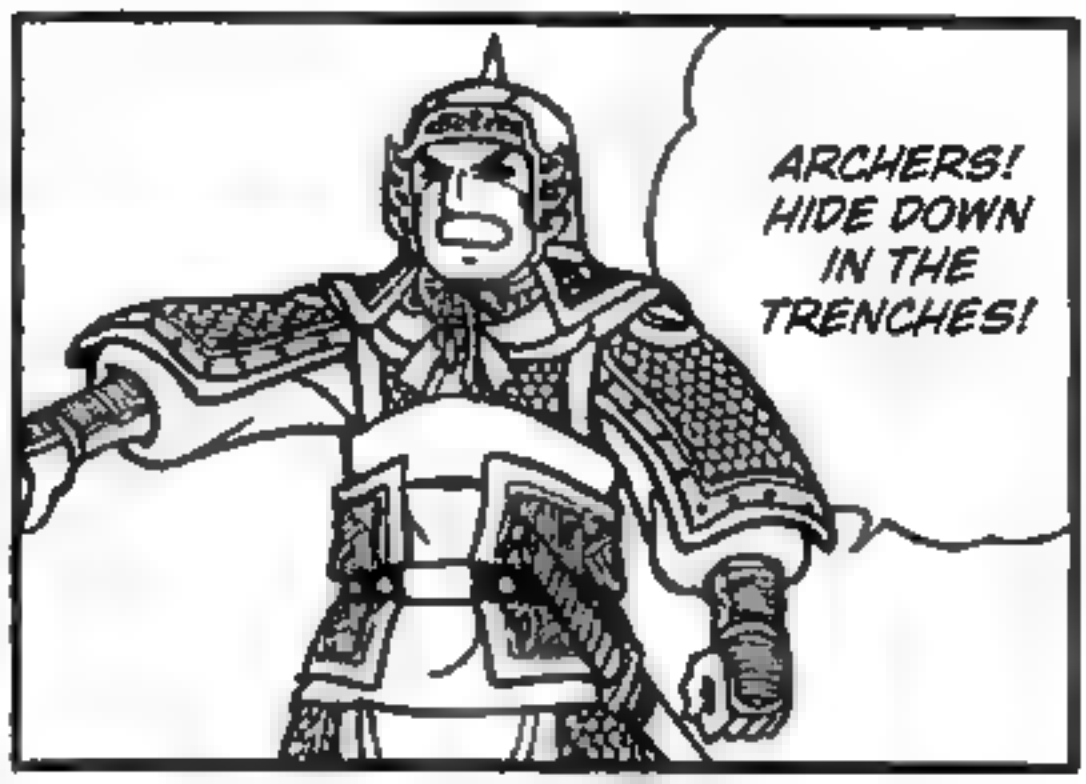
AHH!

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OPEN THE GATES!

A 200,000-STRONG ARMY CERTAINLY IS A FEARSOME SIGHT.




ARCHERS! HIDE DOWN IN THE TRENCHES!

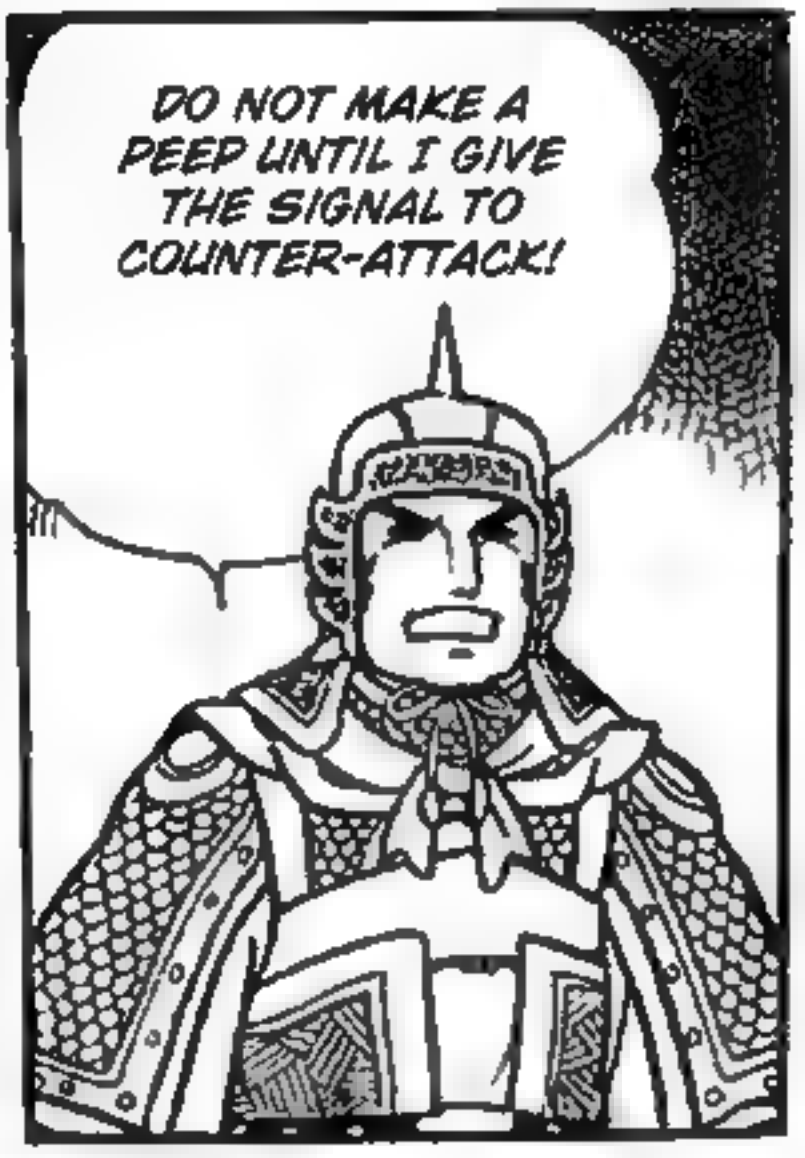

PUT ALL FLAGS AWAY!



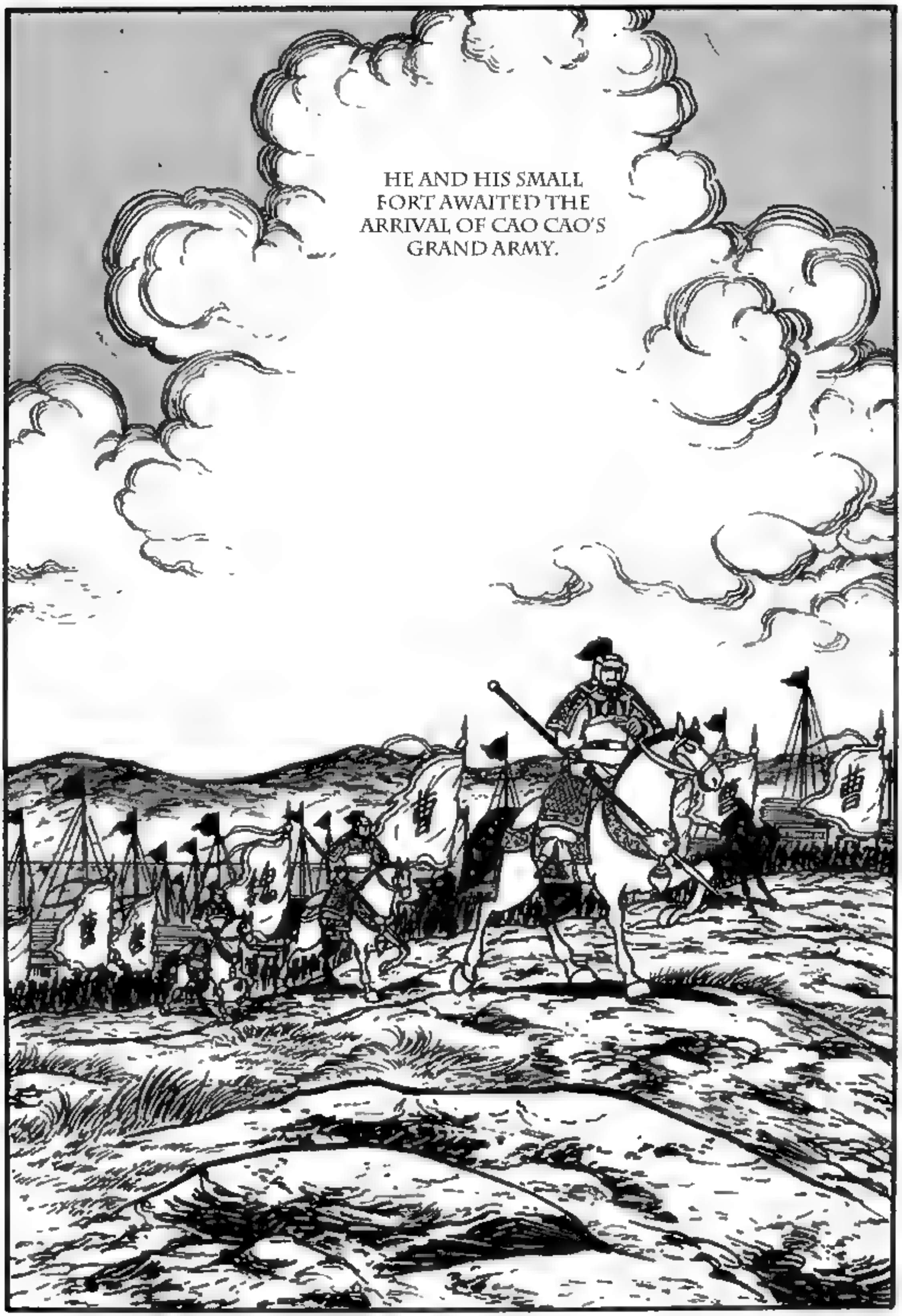




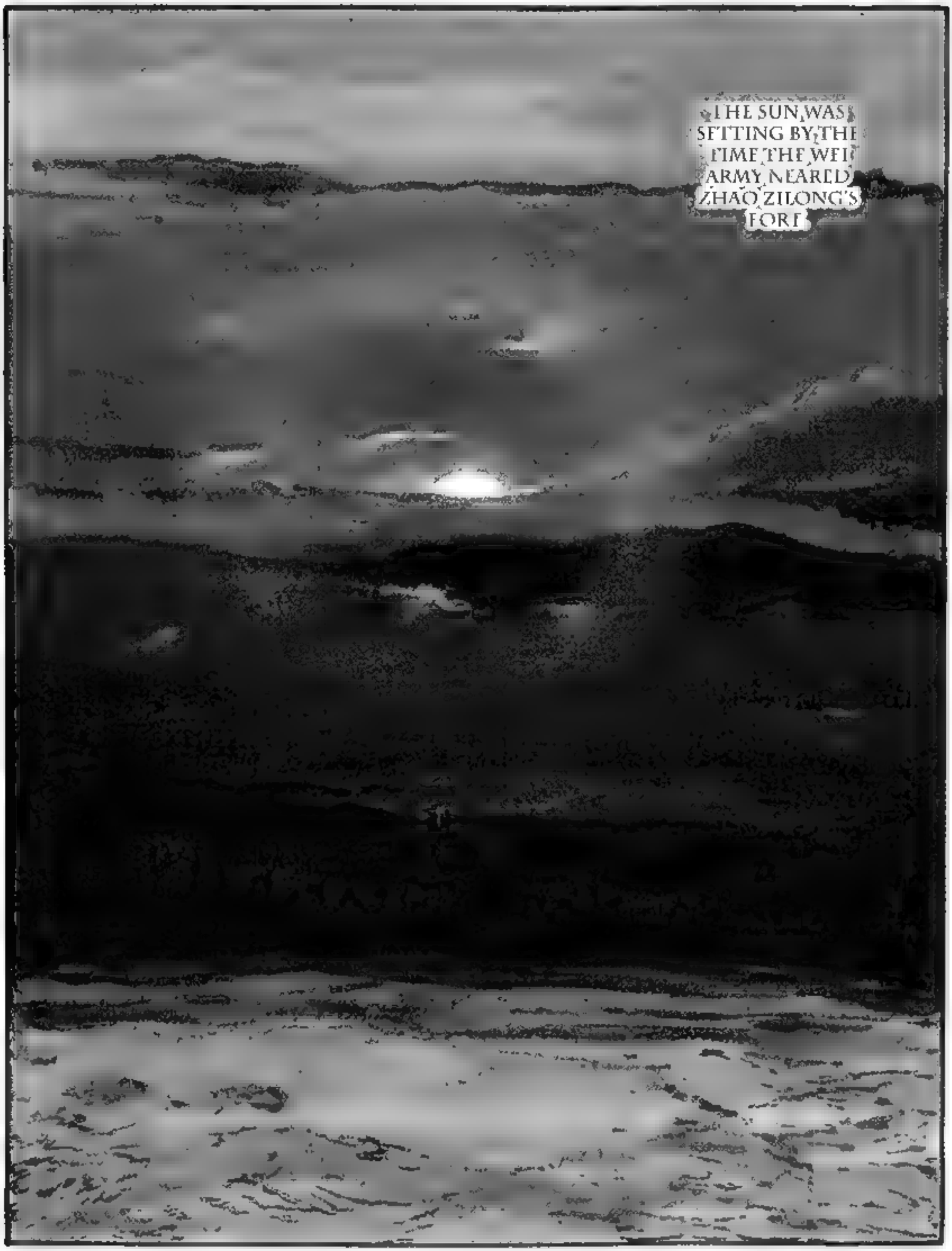




A LONE CAVALRY MAN STOOD SILENTLY ON THE DRAWBRIDGE


HE AND HIS SMALL FORT AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF CAO CAO'S GRAND ARMY.

LONE CAVALRYMAN



AND ZHANG HE

LEADING THE VANGUARD WAS XU HUANG,

HM?

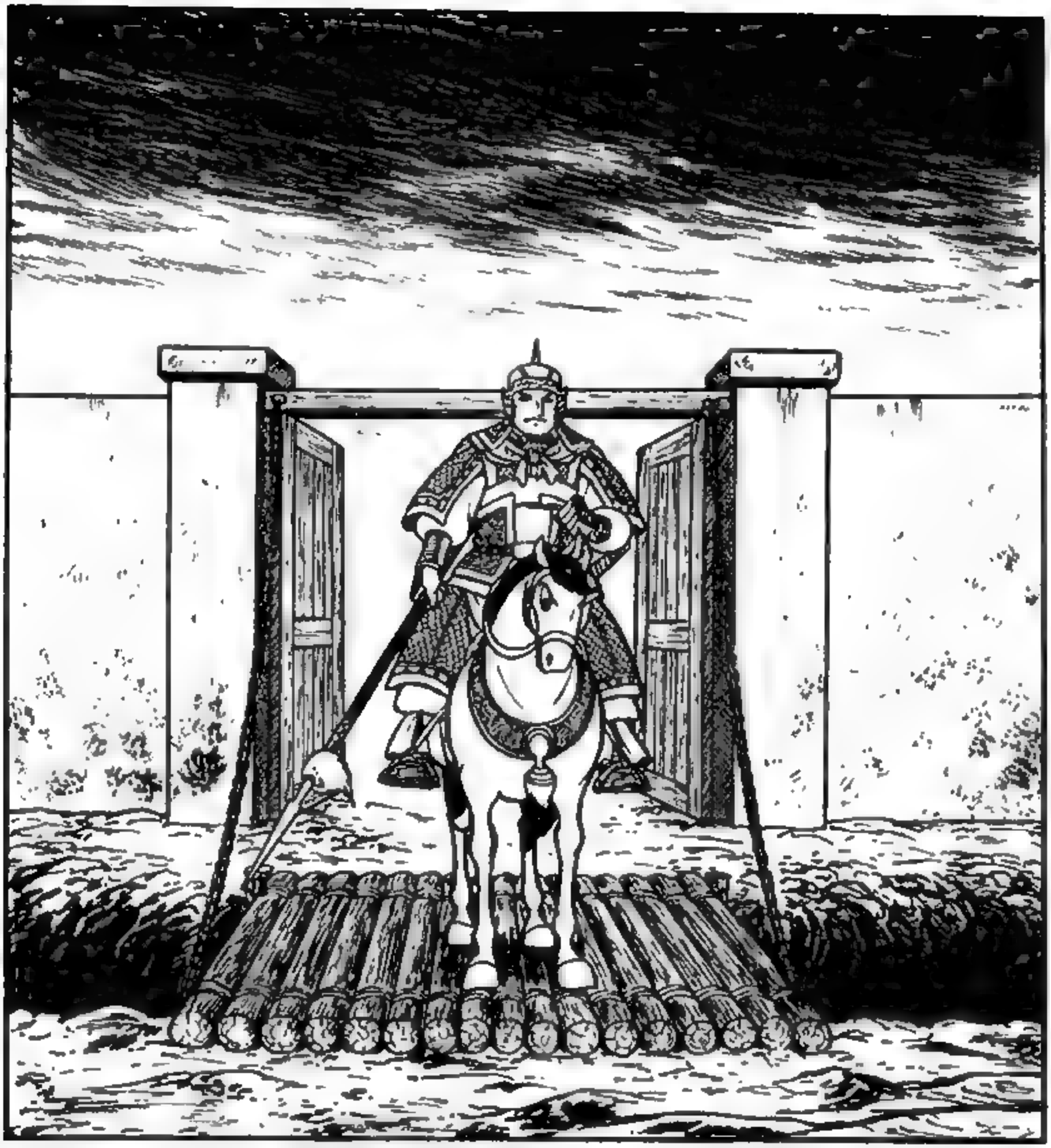
!

I CAN'T SEE ANY OTHER TROOPS NOR EVEN THEIR FLAGS.

OPEN GATES DEFENDED BY A LONE CAVALRY-MAN?

WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT?

LOOK, THE GATES ARE WIDE OPEN.




YES, WE SHOULD NOT APPROACH CARE-LESSLY.


HE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ISN'T THE VANGUARD ADVANCING?

THEY'RE HESITATING?

THEY ARE HESITANT IN APPROACHING AN ENEMY THAT SEEMS TO HAVE SOME TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE, SIR.

YOU MEAN A LONE CAV-ALRYMAN IS HOLDING UP THE ADVANCE OF 200,000 TROOPS!?

YES, THE ENEMY GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG HAS OPENED HIS FORT'S GATE AND IS STANDING IN FRONT ALONE, WITH NO OTHER TROOPS TO BE SEEN.

MNN...

IT'S POSSIBLE HE MAY HAVE TROOPS HIDING CLOSE BY FOR AN AMBUSH. THE PROBLEM IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS HOW LARGE THIS UNKNOWN FORCE MAY BE.

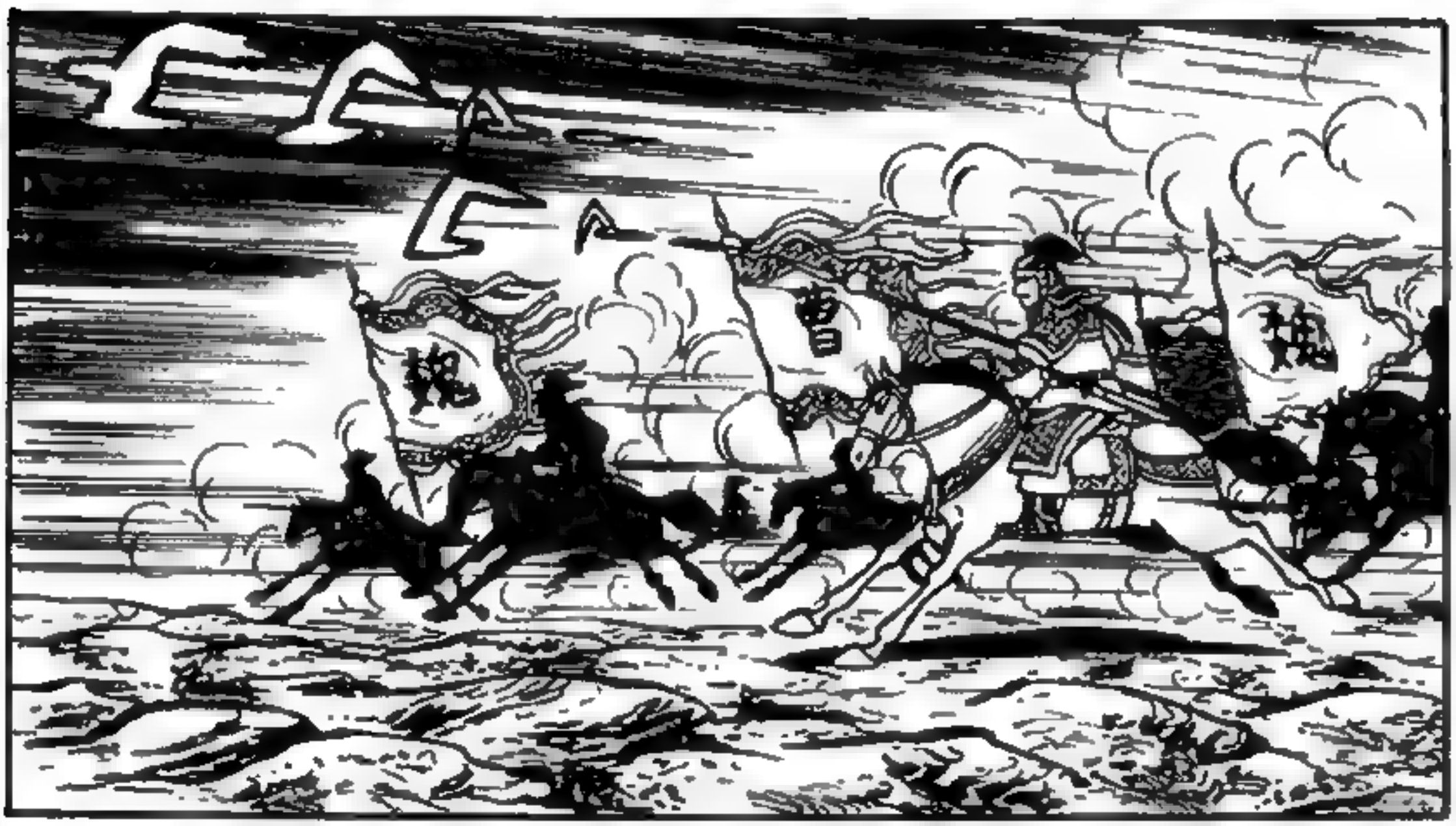
YES, SIR.

TELL XU HUANG AND ZHANG HE TO STORM THE FORT! I WILL NOT HAVE MY ARMY STOPPED BY A SINGLE MAN!

THE CHANCELLOR ORDERS YOU TO ADVANCE!


CHARGE!


VERY
WELL...





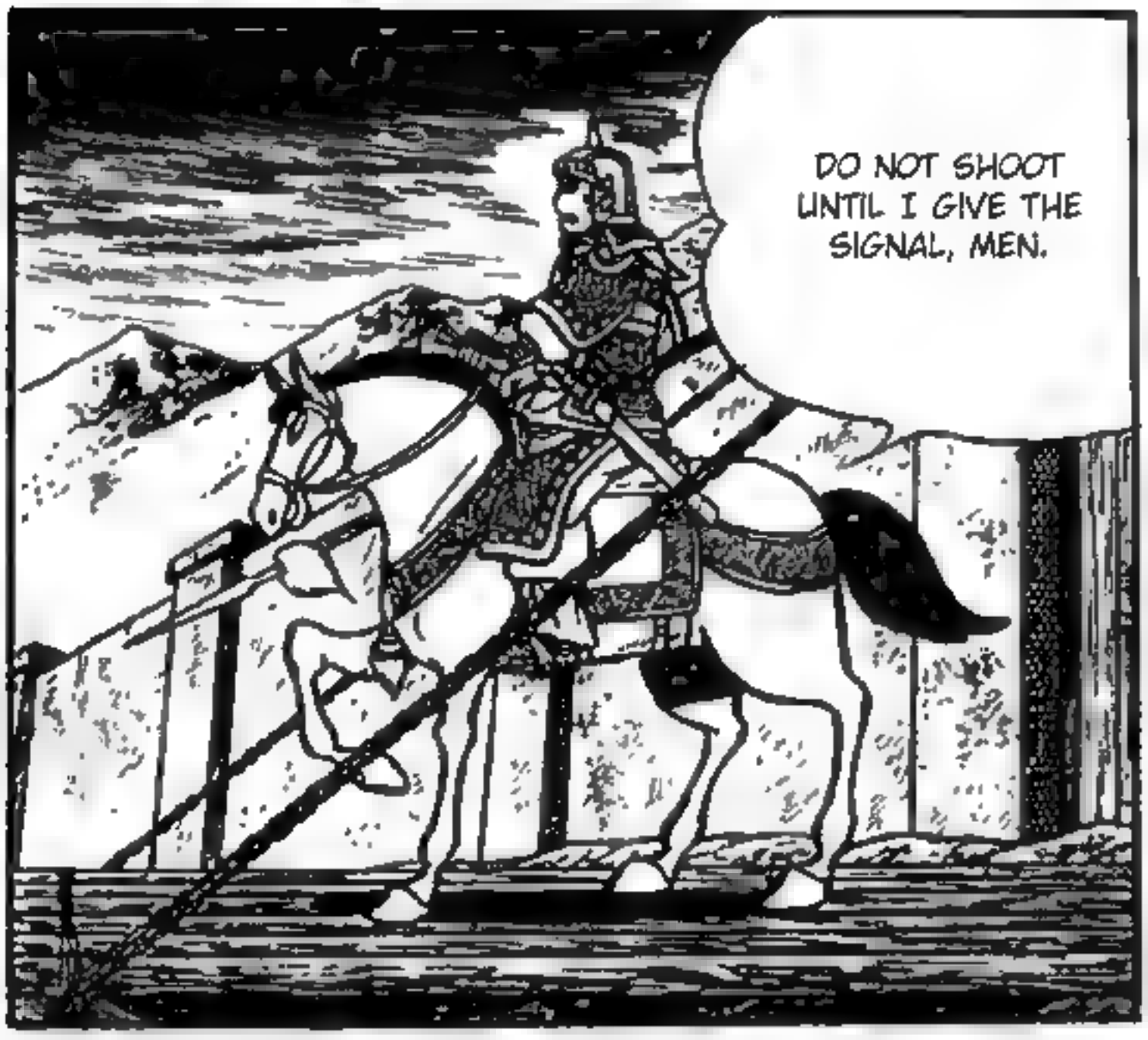

THERE'S NO WAY A LONE MAN CAN HOLD HIS GROUND SO CALMLY IF HE HAD NO PLAN...
HE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN...
HE'S STANDING WITHOUT A HINT OF PANIC...
I AGREE.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL OFF THE ATTACK
MY LORD!
WHAT ARE YOU HESITATING FOR!? DID YOU NOT RECEIVE MY ORDERS!?


Y-YES, SIR...

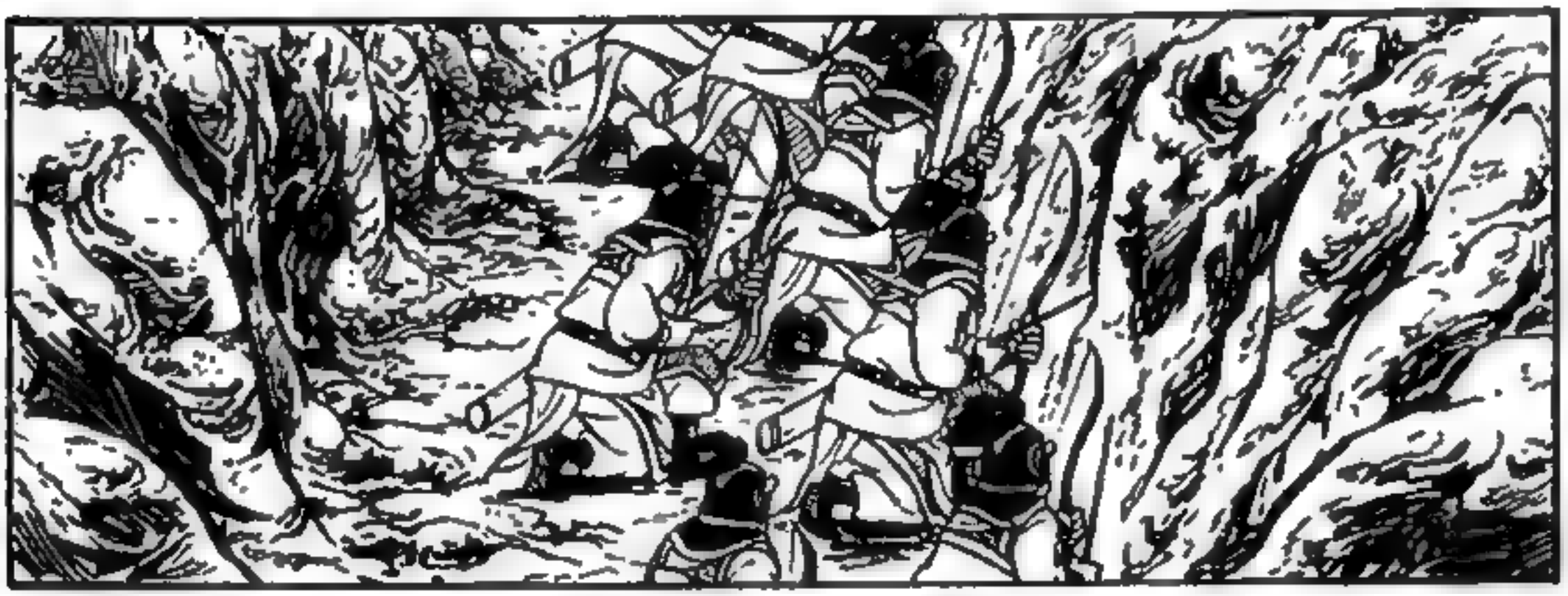

ONE MUST BE RESOLUTE TO ACHIEVE VICTORY!

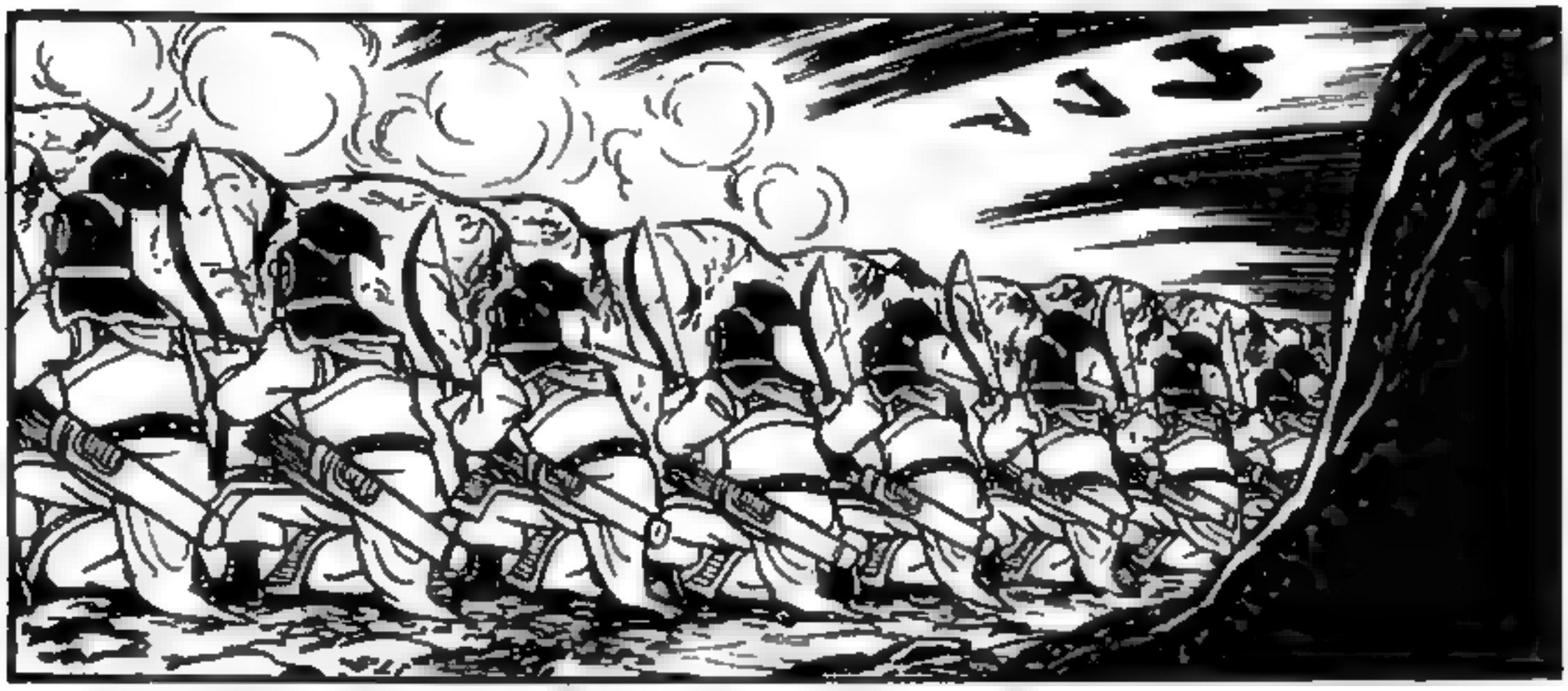

徐晃
魏
CHARGE!




DO NOT SHOOT UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL, MEN.

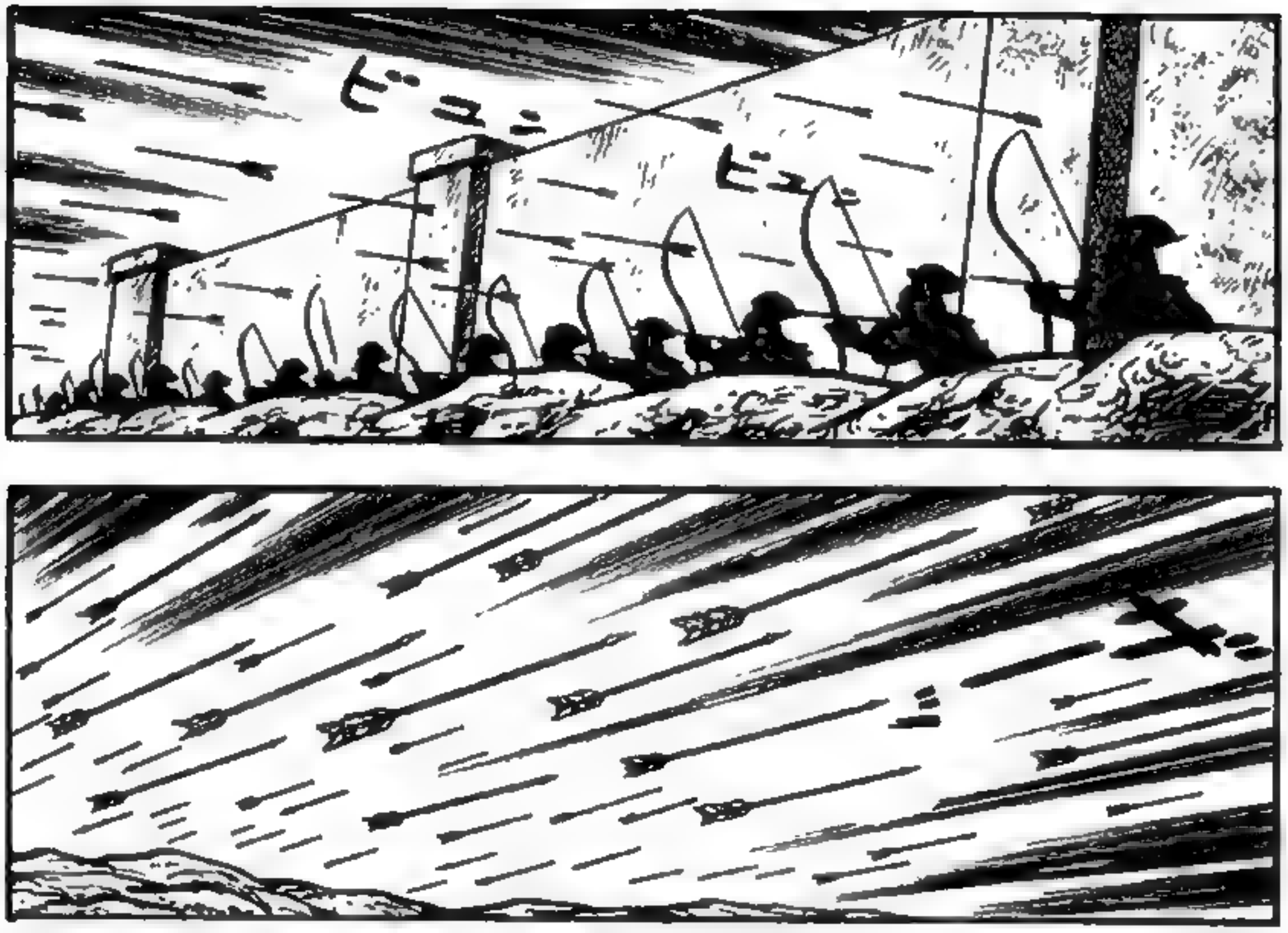

HAHA...



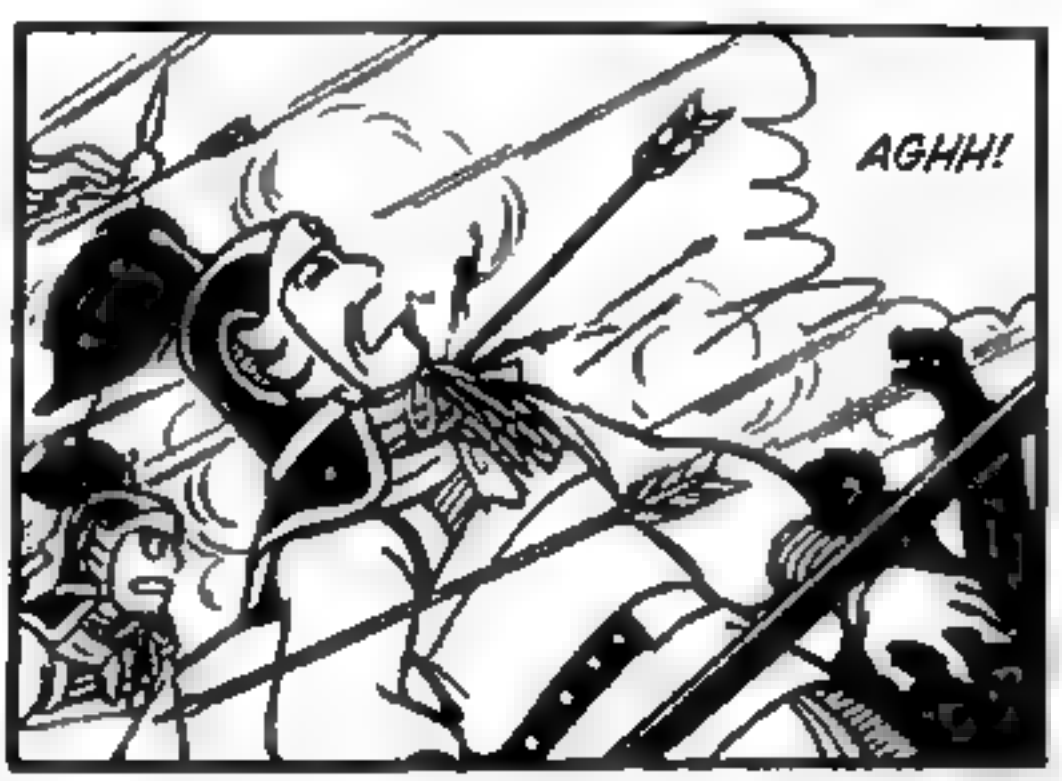


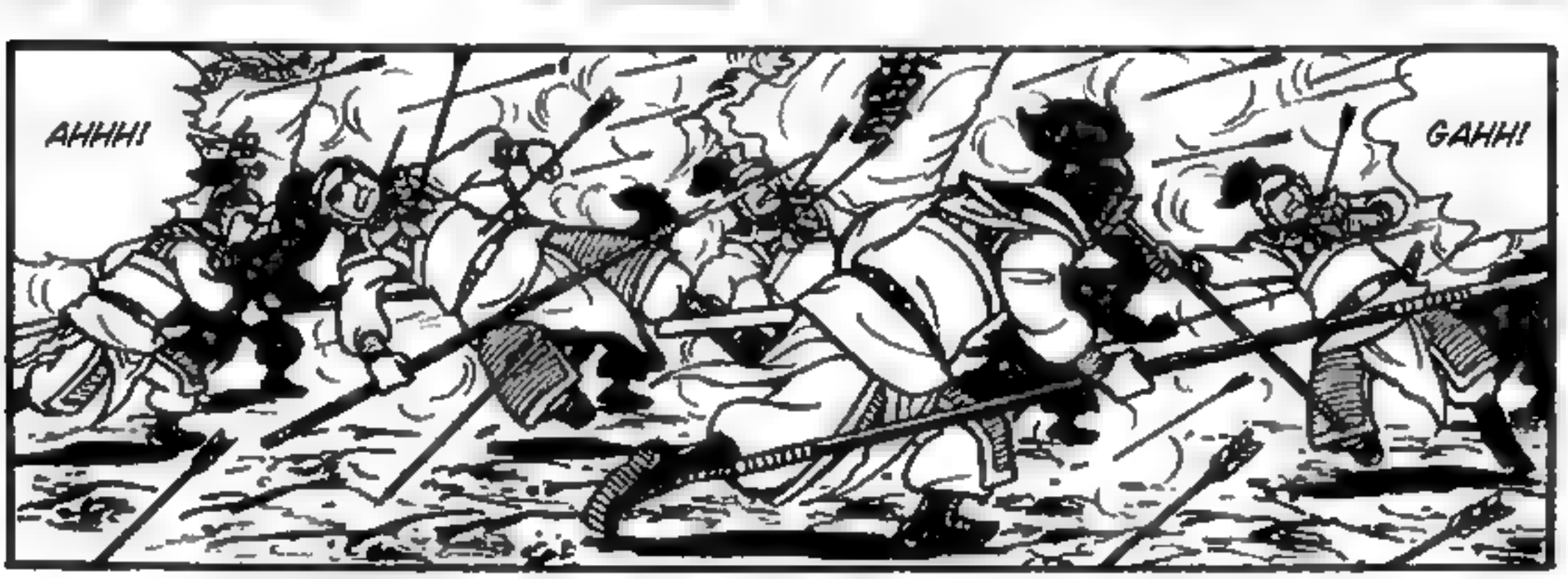


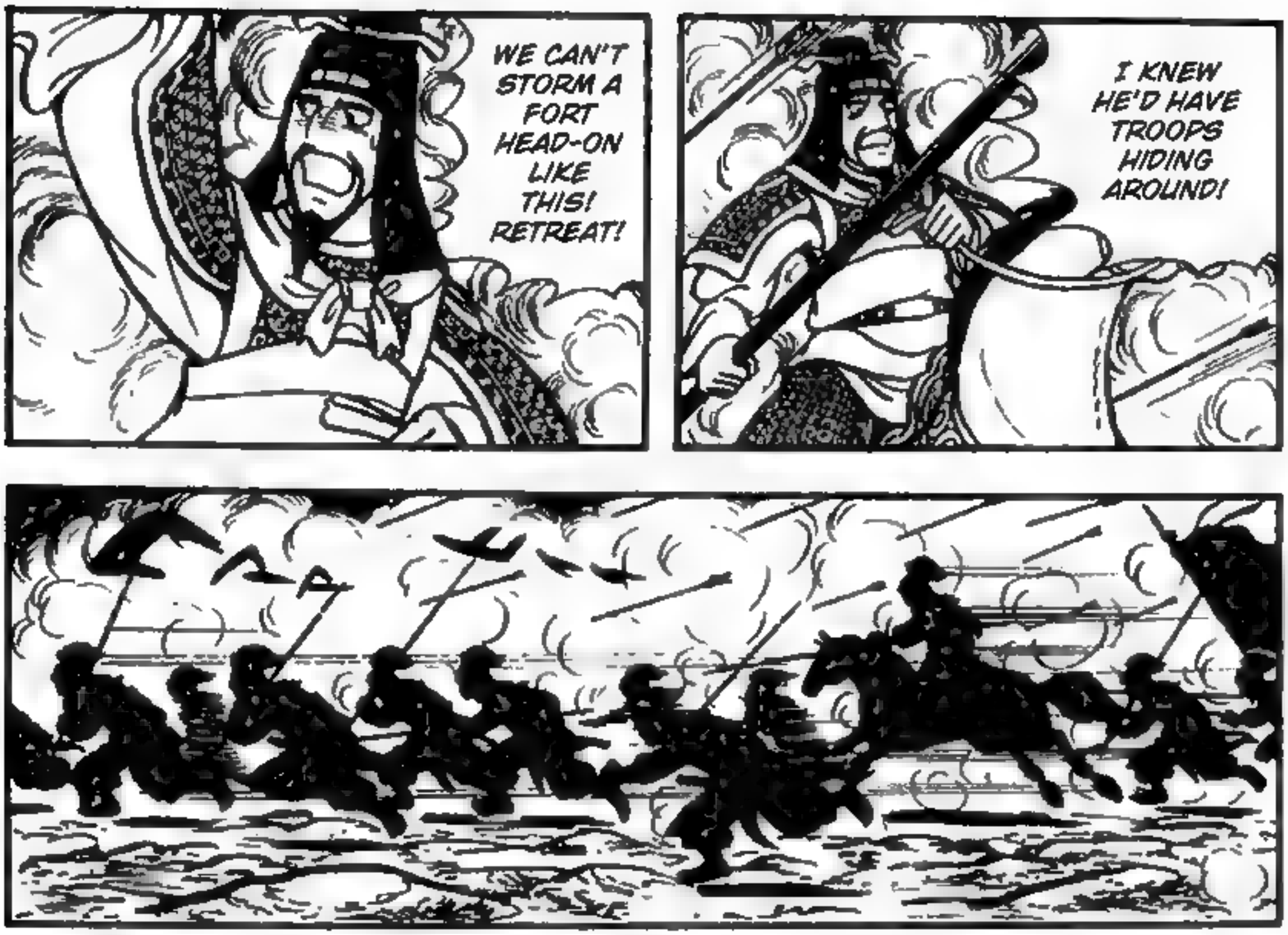

NOW!




UGH!


AGHH!


AHHH!
GAHH!

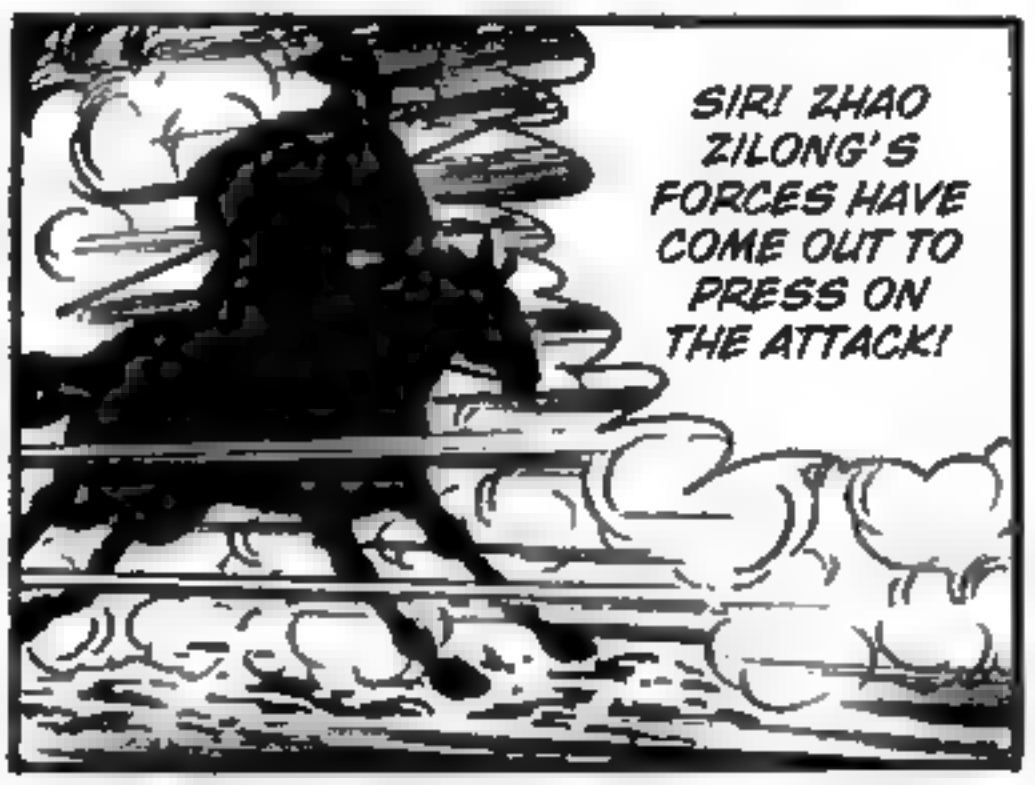

WE CAN'T STORM A FORT HEAD-ON LIKE THIS! RETREAT!
I KNEW HE'D HAVE TROOPS HIDING AROUND!


IT'S TOO HARD TO TELL NOW THAT THE SUN HAS ALMOST SET...
JUST HOW MANY ENEMY TROOPS ARE THERE IN THAT FORT?
AHH!
WHAT!?
OUR CAMPS TO THE REAR HAVE ALL BEEN SET ABLAZE!
CHANCEL-LOR!
曹
曹


AHHH!




IT'S TOO DARK TO GAUGE JUST HOW MANY ENEMIES WE'RE DEALING WITH. I HIGHLY ADVISE YOU TO WITHDRAW TO A SAFER PLACE!


SIR! ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES HAVE COME OUT TO PRESS ON THE ATTACK!


AS THE REAR RUSHED BACK TO THE SHIPS
RETREAT!


WITHDRAW BACK ACROSS THE RIVER!


THE FRONT WAS THROWN INTO PANIC BY ZHAO ZILONG'S UNEXPECTED COUNTER ATTACK


魏
THE WEI TROOPS, ALREADY GIVEN THE ORDER TO WITHDRAW HAD NO INTENTION OF HOLDING THEIR GROUND.


AND IN THEIR PANICKED RETREAT, MANY DROWNED IN THE HAN RIVER


STILL, CAO CAO
FORTUNATELY
ESCAPED WITH
HIS LIFE.


THE FIRES TO THE REAR, WHICH HAD CAUSED THE WHOLE RETREAT, WERE STARTED BY LIU FENG AND MENG DA'S FORCES AS PER KONGMING'S INSTRUCTIONS


THEY SUCCESSFULLY BURNED THE REMAINING SUPPLY STORES AT BEISHAN AND MICANG HILLS


CAO CAO WAS FORCED TO RETREAT ALL THE WAY TO NANZHENG TO REGROUP HIS FORCES
曹
曹


YES. WE HAVE CAPTURED GRAINS, WEAPONS, AND HORSES IN PLENTY.
ARE THESE ALL THE SUPPLIES THE WEI FORCES ABANDONED?

YES, AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO ZHAO ZILONG'S STUPENDOUS PLUCK.

THE ENEMIES HAVE ALSO LOST 10,000 OF THEIR NUMBER TO THE RIVER YESTERDAY.

YES, BUT HE WON'T ABANDON THIS CAMPAIGN JUST YET.

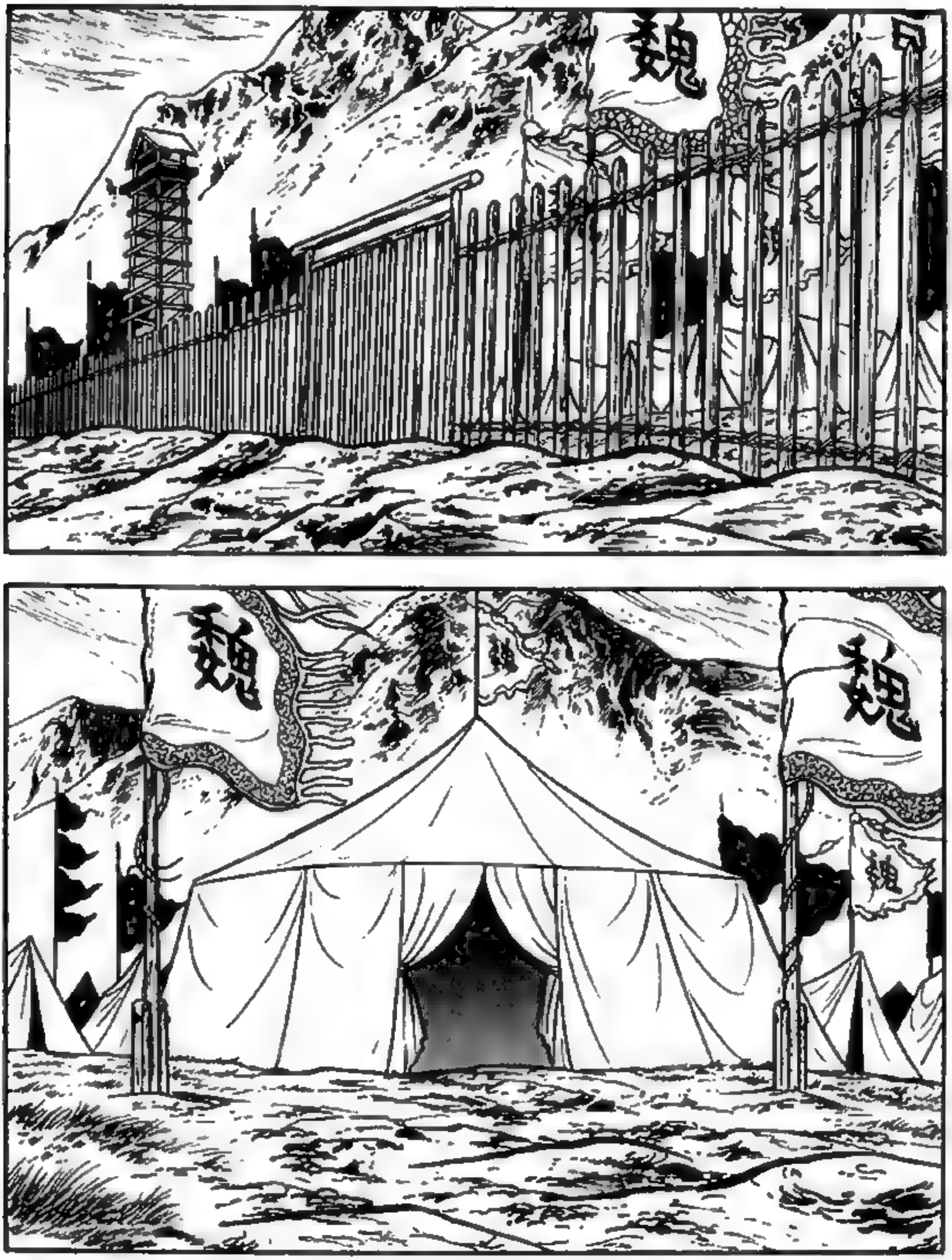
AFTER THIS STINGING DEFEAT, CAO CAO WILL BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS FOR SURE.

YES, I EXPECT THAT MUCH AT LEAST FROM HIM.

HE'S SURE TO COME BACK HARDER AND FIERCER ONCE HE REGROUPS HIS FORCES.

蜀

TO PUT THE RIVER TO ONE'S REAR



*WEI (魏)

YES, NOW THAT OUR FORCES HAVE REGROUPED, IT'S FINALLY TIME WE BRING THE ATTACK TO LIU BEI.

PLEASE BESTOW ME A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF AS THE HEAD OF THE VANGUARD, CHANCELLOR.

BUT YOU ARE TO TAKE WANG PING AS YOUR SECOND-IN-COMMAND.

YES, SIR.

HE'S FAMILIAR WITH THE LAY OF THIS LAND, SO HE'LL BE VERY HELPFUL, I'M SURE.


THE WEI ARMY ADVANCED BACK TO THE HAN RIVER ONCE MORE


THE VANGUARD LED BY XU HUANG AND WANG PING WERE FIRST TO REACH THE RIVER.
魏

PONTOON BRIDGES? MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, SIR?

START THE CONSTRUCTION OF PONTOON BRIDGES!

WHAT IF WE'RE ATTACKED UNEXPECTEDLY AND FORCED TO RETREAT?

YOU'RE SETTING UP CAMP WITH THE RIVER TO OUR REAR!?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? I'M CROSSING THE RIVER AND SETTING UP CAMP.

IT FORCED HIS TROOPS TO FIGHT WITHOUT HESITATION AND FEAR.

ARE YOU UNAWARE THAT HAN XIN DID THE SAME IN HIS CAMPAIGNS?

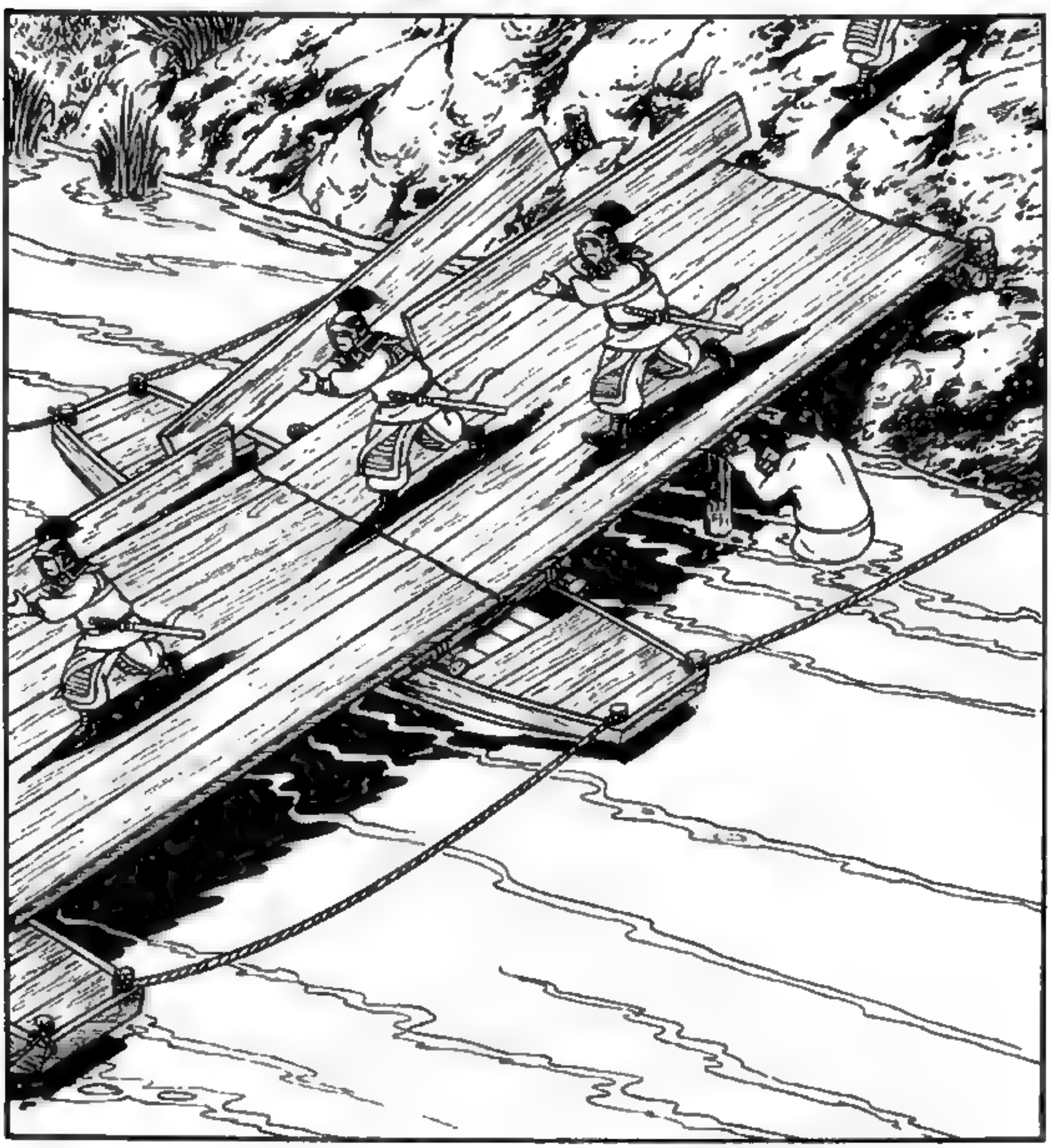
IF IT WORRIES YOU SO MUCH, YOU CAN SECURE THE RIVERSHORE WITH INFANTRY REGIMENTS WHILE I GO OVER FOR A SWIFT STRIKE WITH MY CAVALRY.

BUT HAN XIN COULD ONLY AFFORD TO TAKE SUCH A RISK BECAUSE HE KNEW HIS ENEMIES HAD NO STRATAGEMS OF ANY SKILL. SURELY YOU CANNOT COMPARE HIS ENEMIES TO THE LIKES OF ZHAO ZILONG AND HUANG ZHONG?

*HAN XIN: MOST FAMOUS GENERAL OF LIU BANG, THE FOUNDER OF THE HAN DYNASTY

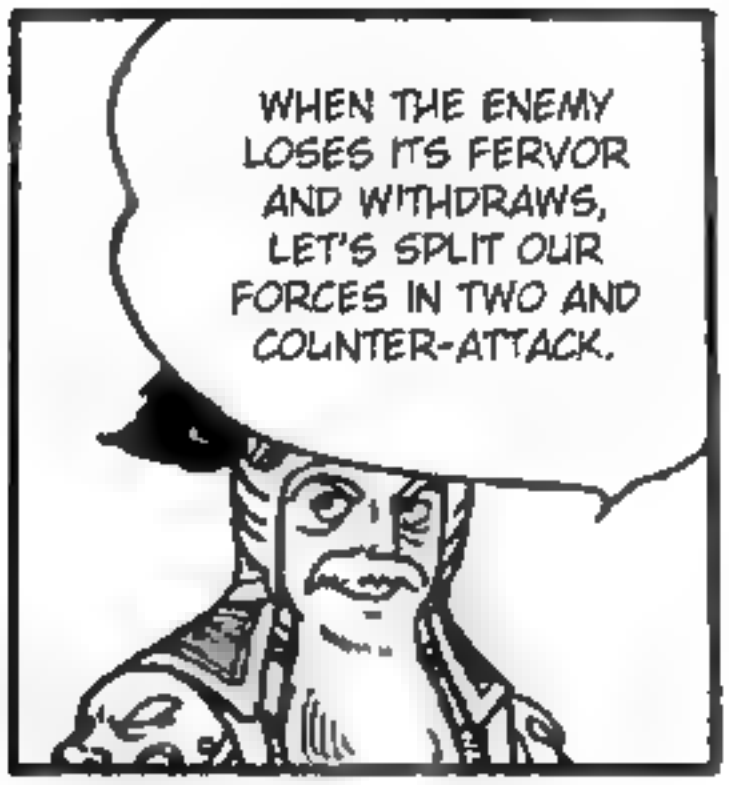



COME ON THEN! I WANT THE CONSTRUC- TION UNDERWAY IMMEDIATELY!



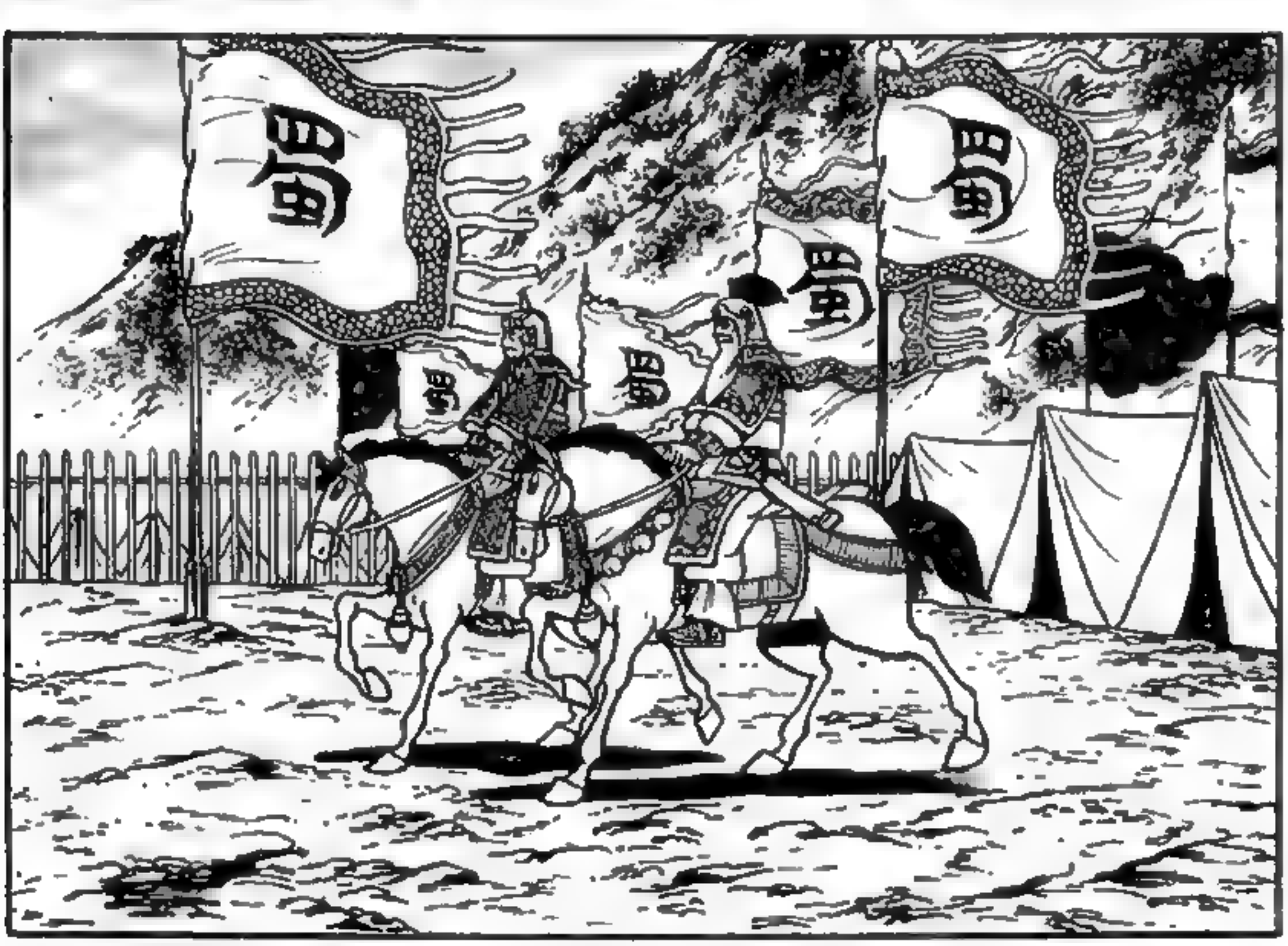

IT'S TIME TO CROSS!


HMM, IT APPEARS XU HUANG IS RELYING TOO MUCH ON HIS MARTIAL PROWESS.
WHAT? XU HUANG HAS CROSSED THE HAN RIVER AND SET UP CAMP?
YES, GO AHEAD.
ALLOW US TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.

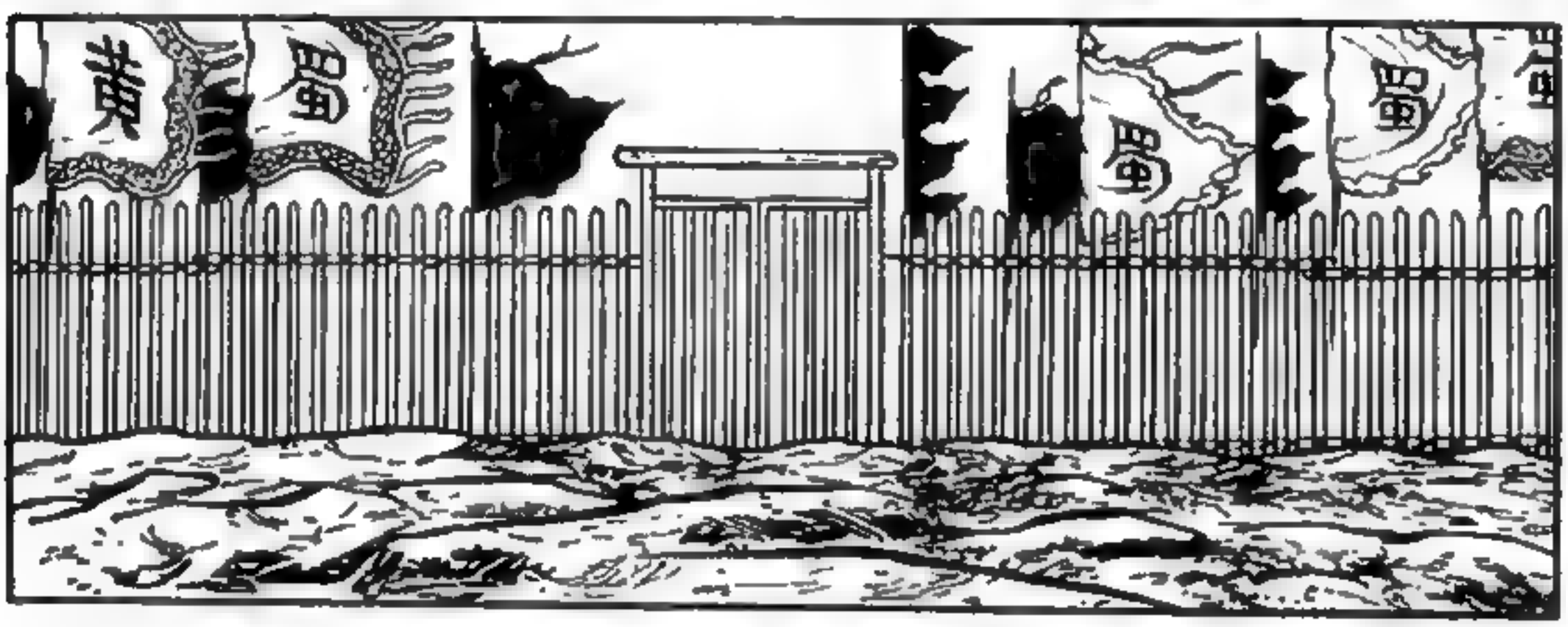

WHEN THE ENEMY LOSES ITS FERVOR AND WITHDRAWS, LET'S SPLIT OUR FORCES IN TWO AND COUNTER-ATTACK.

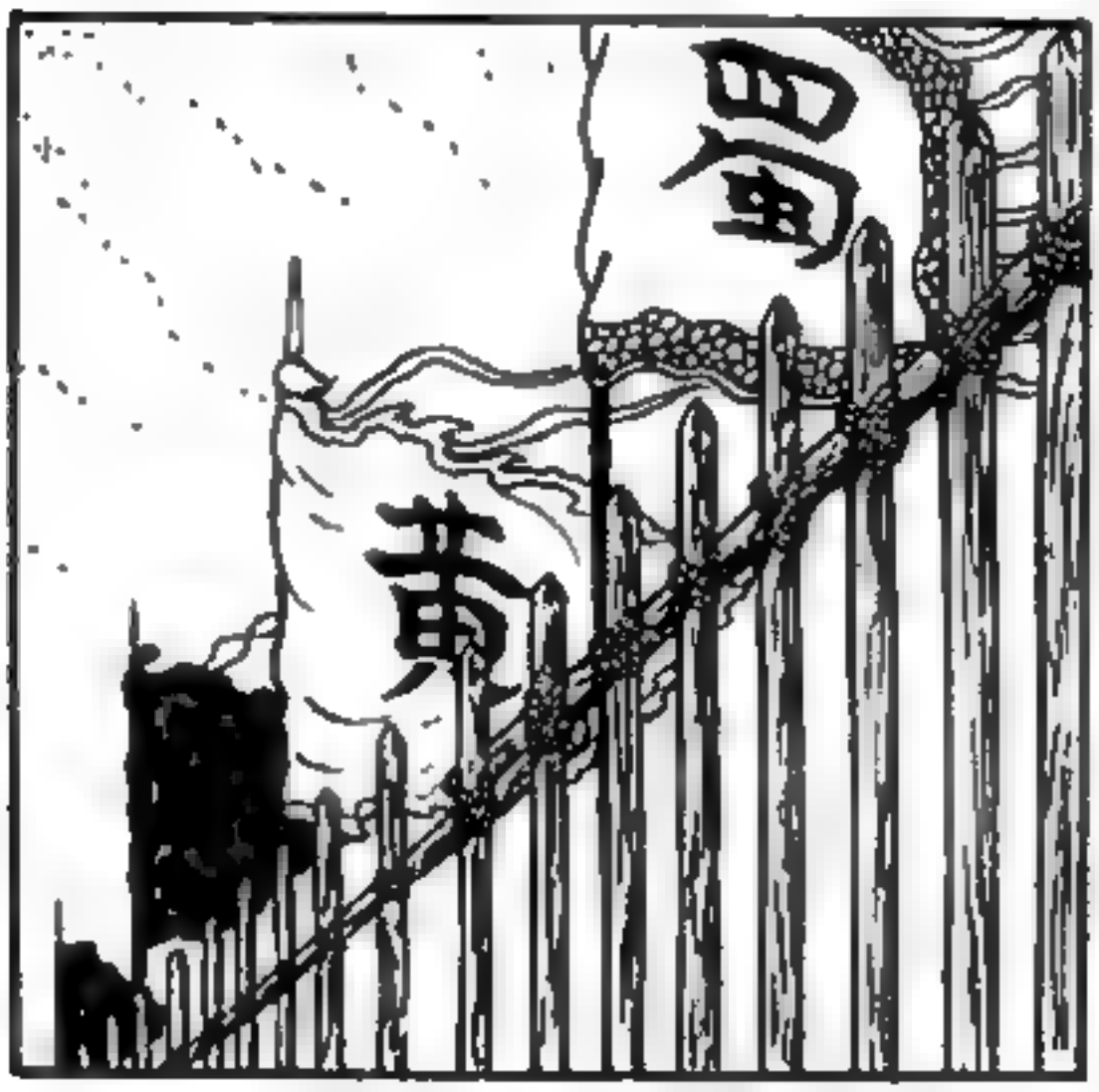

I BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH AN ENEMY IMPATIENT TO FIGHT IS TO AVOID BATTLE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.


AGREED.










COME OUT!
I, XU HUANG,
WILL BE YOUR
OPPONENT TODAY!

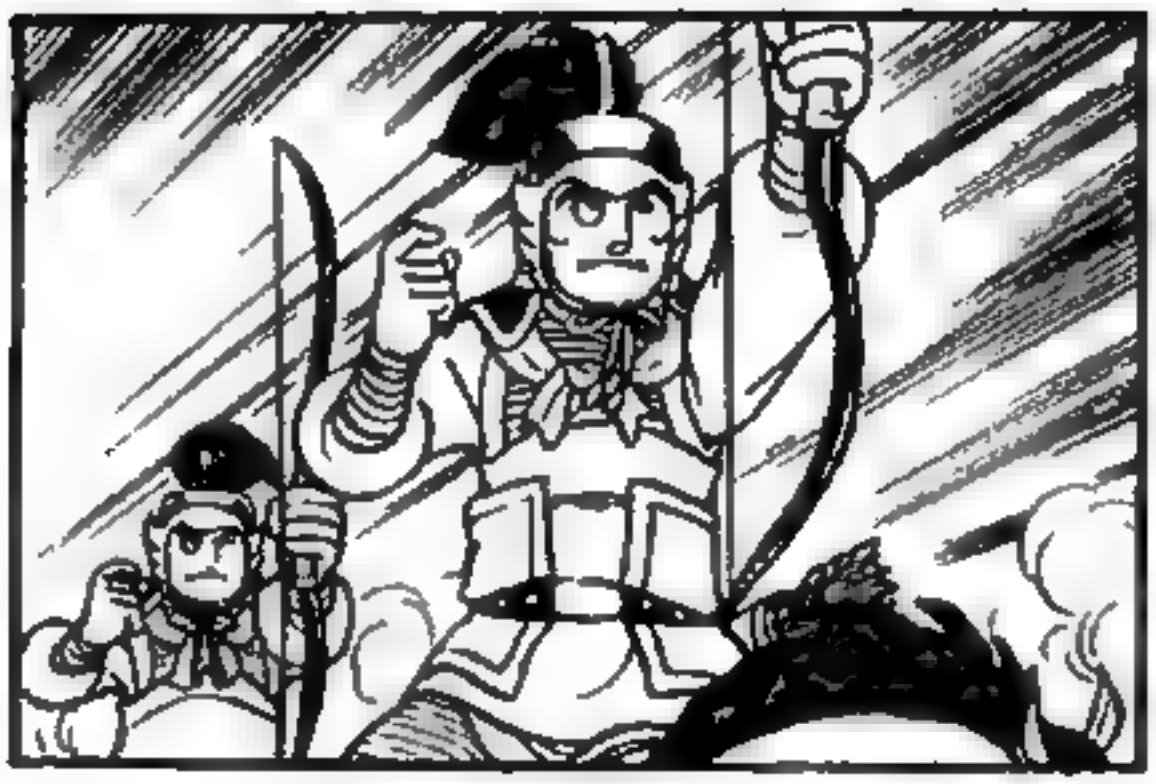

WHAT'S THE MATTER!? ARE THE MEN OF SHU NOTHING BUT COWARDS?

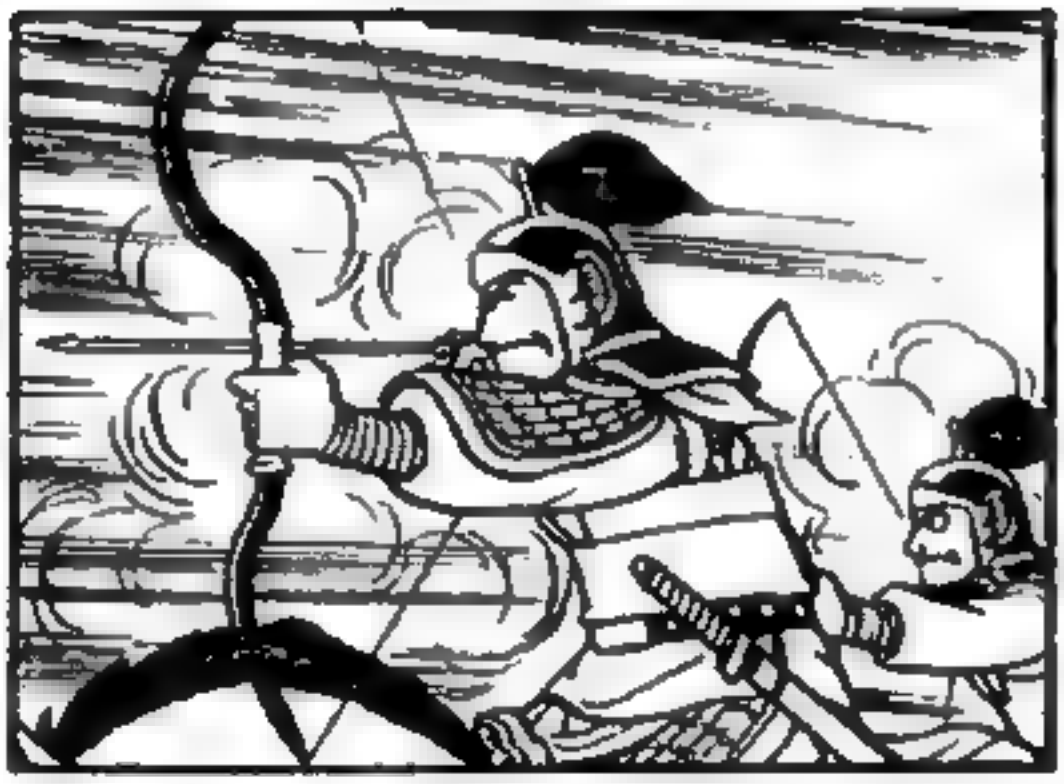

...SO BE IT. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO ATTACK FIRST TO DRAW THEM OUT.

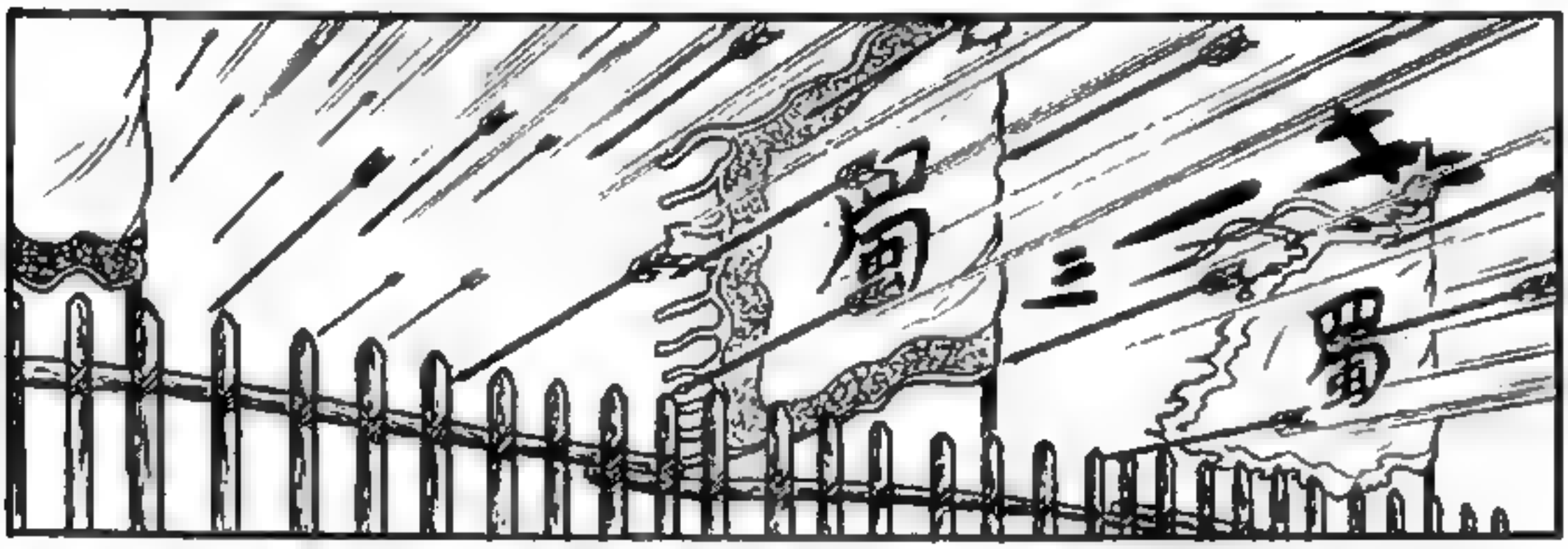

趙
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ATTACK!






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LET'S WITHDRAW SEVERAL PACES AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION.


HM...
THE ENEMIES AREN'T EVEN RETURNING FIRE, SIR.



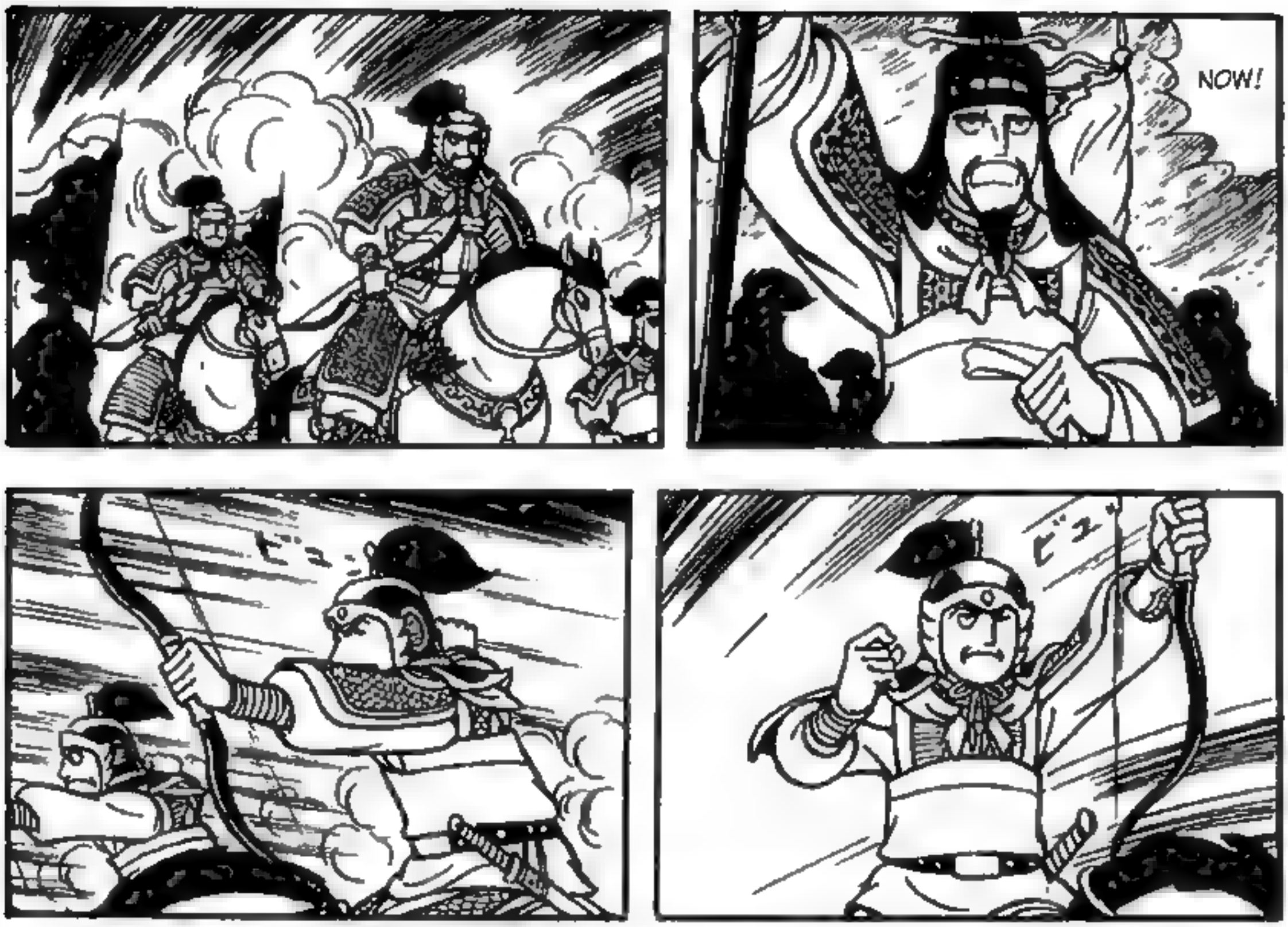

RETREAT JUST OUTSIDE THE RANGE OF ANY ENEMY ARROWS!

HMPH, BUNCH OF COWARDS!

SIR, THE ENEMIES HAVE NEITHER MADE A PEEP NOR SIGNS OF MOVEMENT.

YES, SIR.

FINE, SHOOT A FEW MORE VOLLEYS OF ARROWS ONE LAST TIME AND WE'LL RETREAT BACK TO CAMP FOR THE DAY.


NOW!
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THEN LET'S PROCEED AS PLANNED.

YES.

EXACTLY.

THEY'RE PROBABLY LOW ON ARROWS BY NOW, MEANING THEY'LL RETREAT SOON AFTER THIS. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, ZHAO ZILONG?

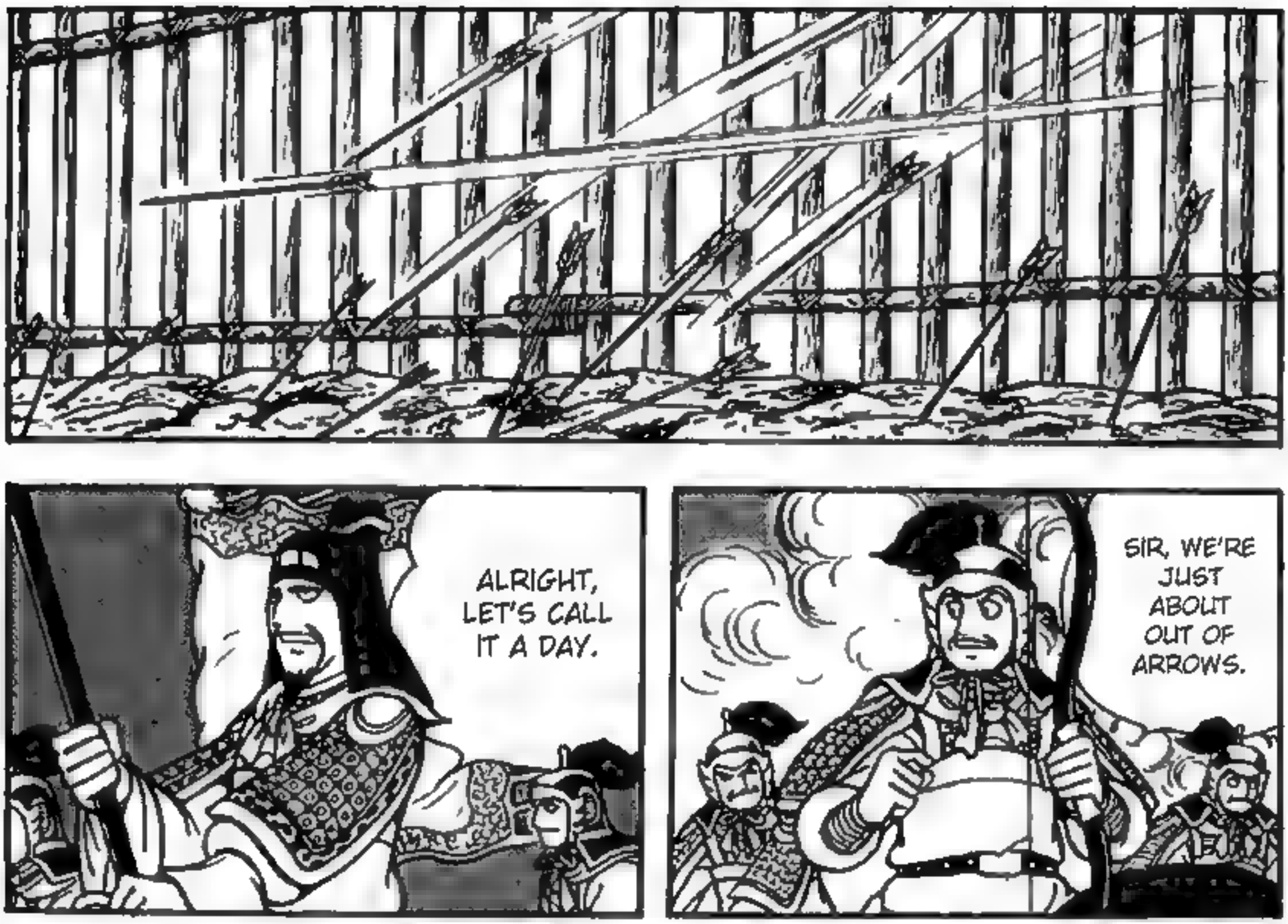
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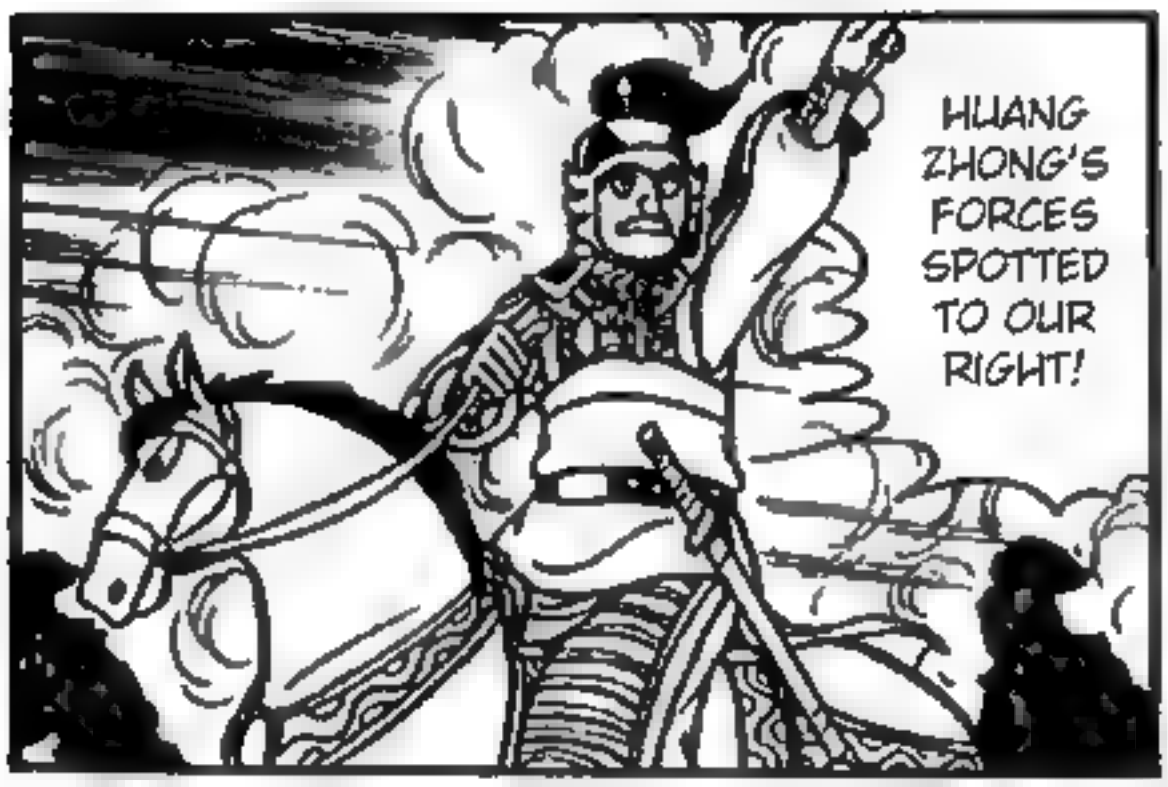
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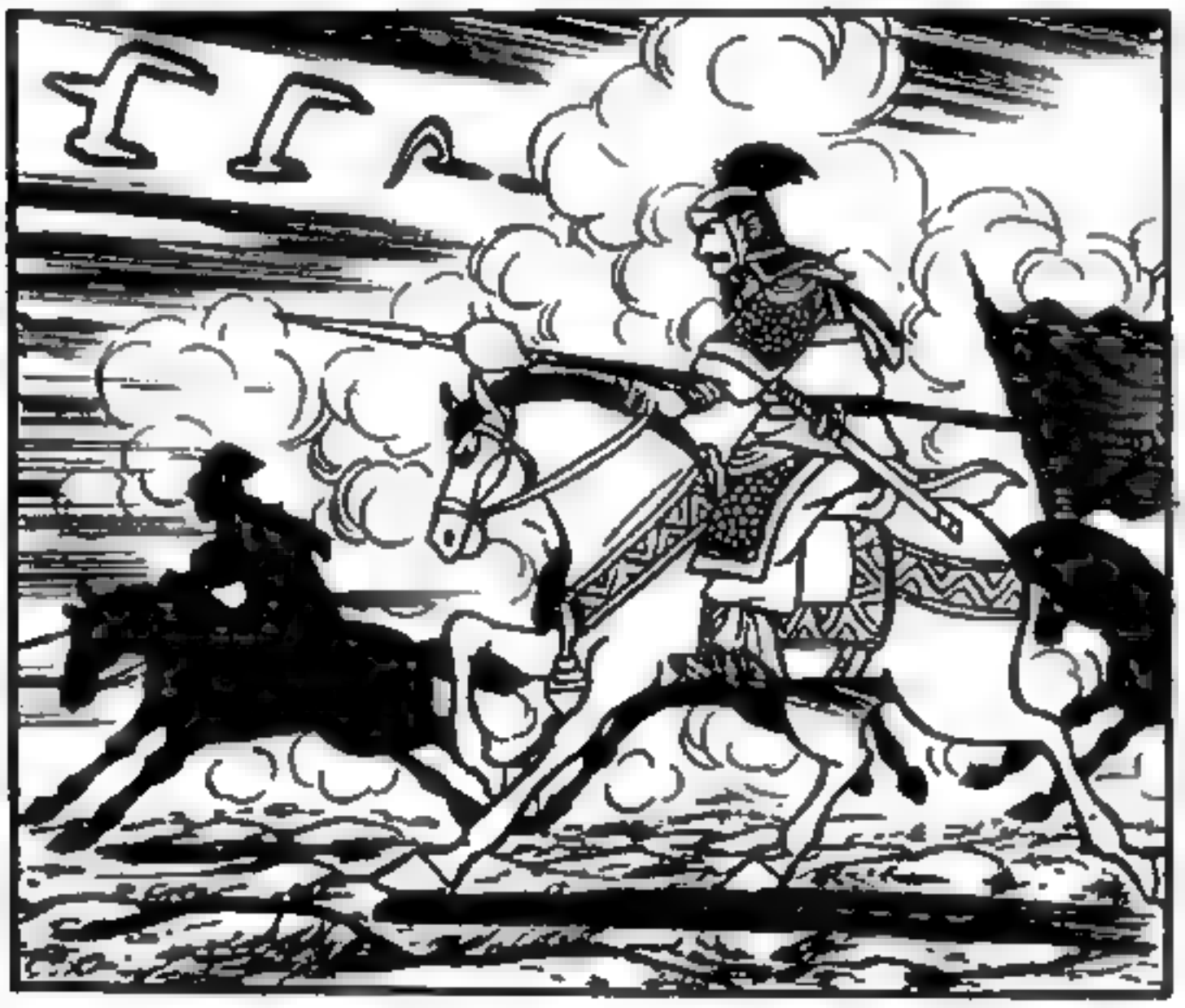
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ALRIGHT, LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
SIR, WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUT OF ARROWS.

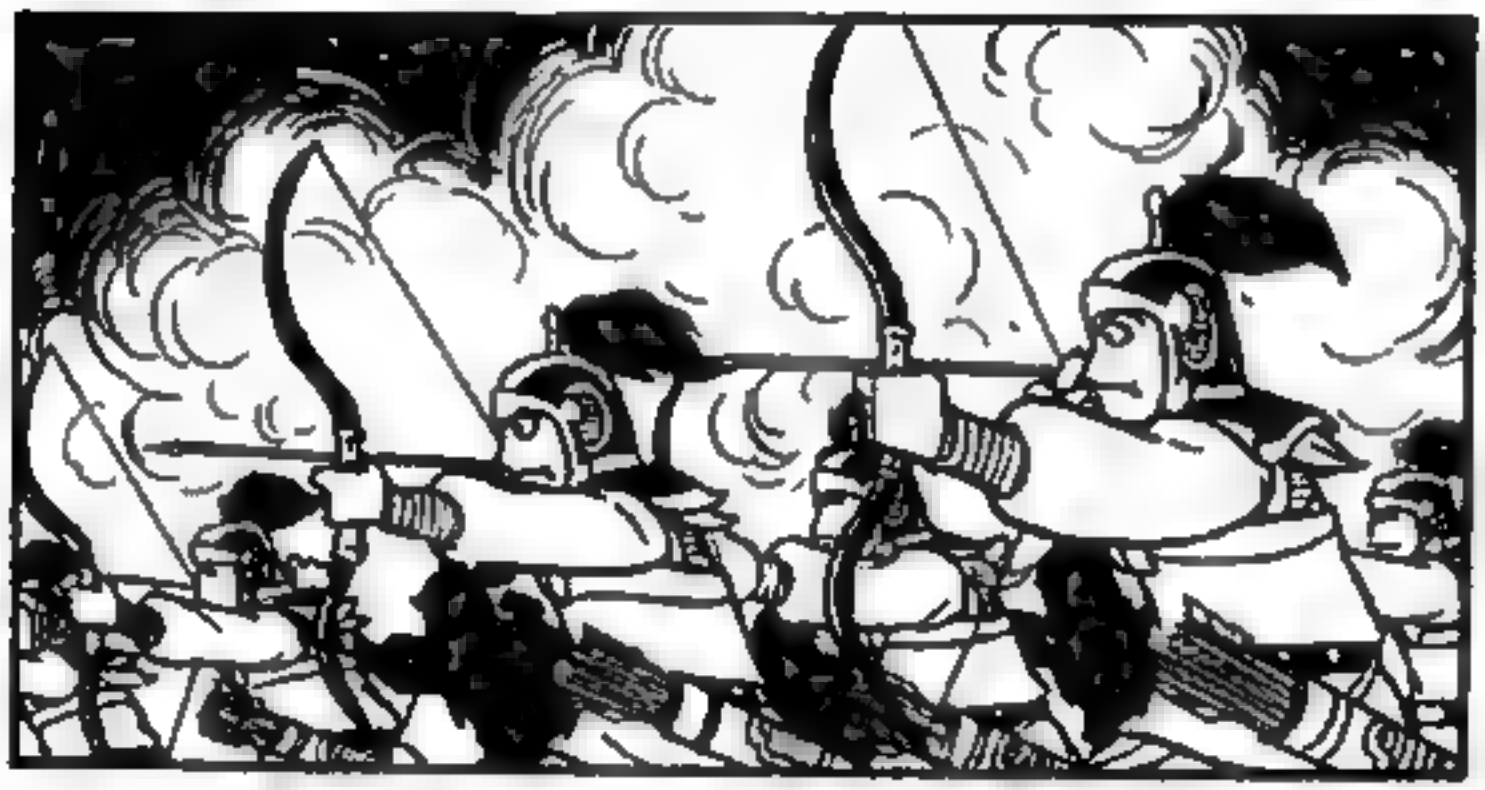

HUANG ZHONG'S FORCES SPOTTED TO OUR RIGHT!


HM?



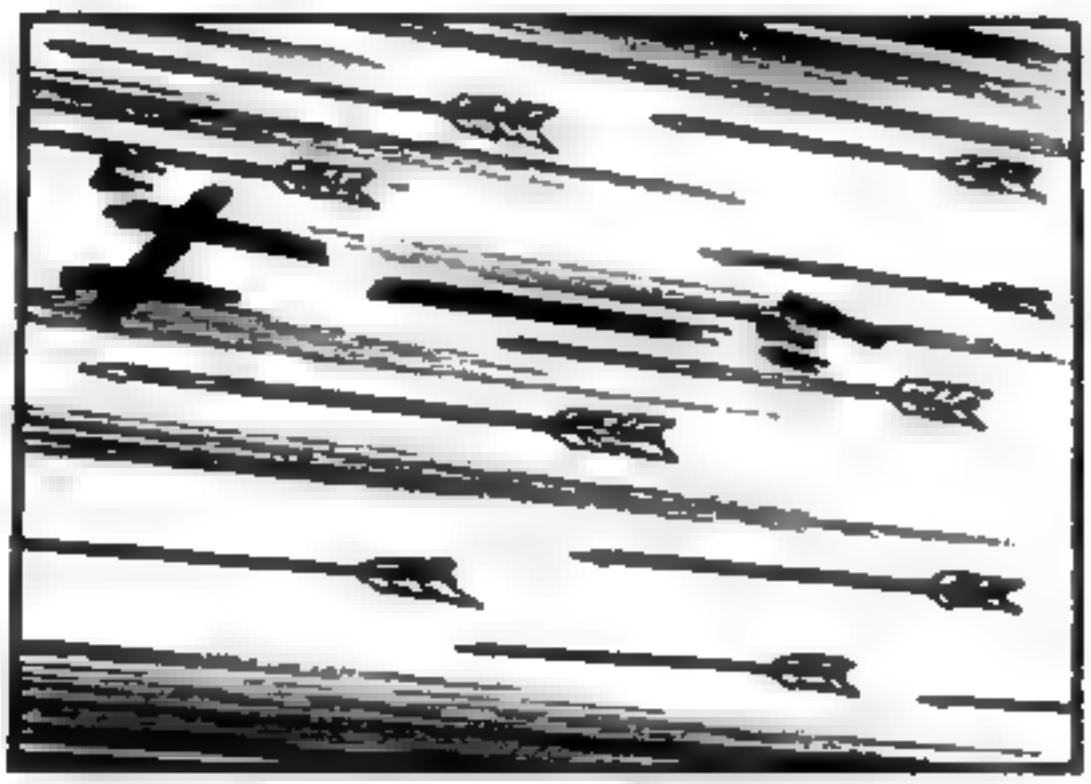



ATTACK!




SHOWER THEM IN ARROWS!









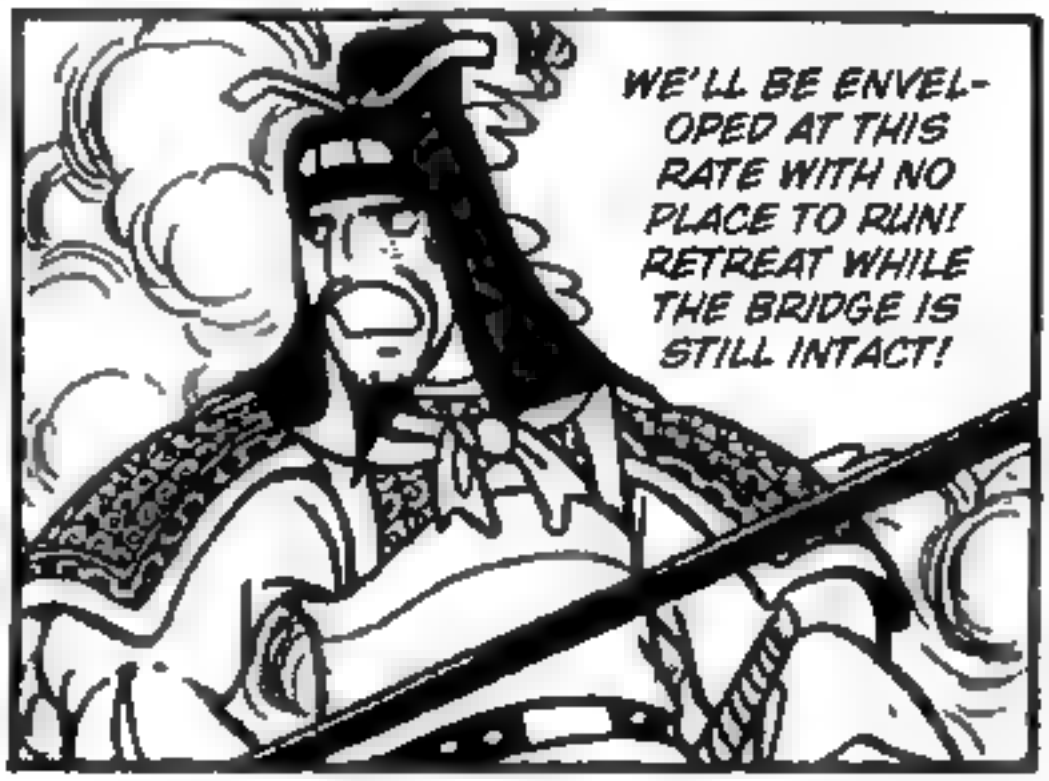

HM?


SIR! THE BRIDGE IS ON FIRE!




WHAT?




WE'LL BE ENVEL-OPED AT THIS RATE WITH NO PLACE TO RUN! RETREAT WHILE THE BRIDGE IS STILL INTACT!




AH-






IT'S ZHAO Z'LONG TH S TIME FROM THE LEFT, SIR!


PAY NO HEED AND MAKE YOUR WAY BACK ACROSS THE RIVER!



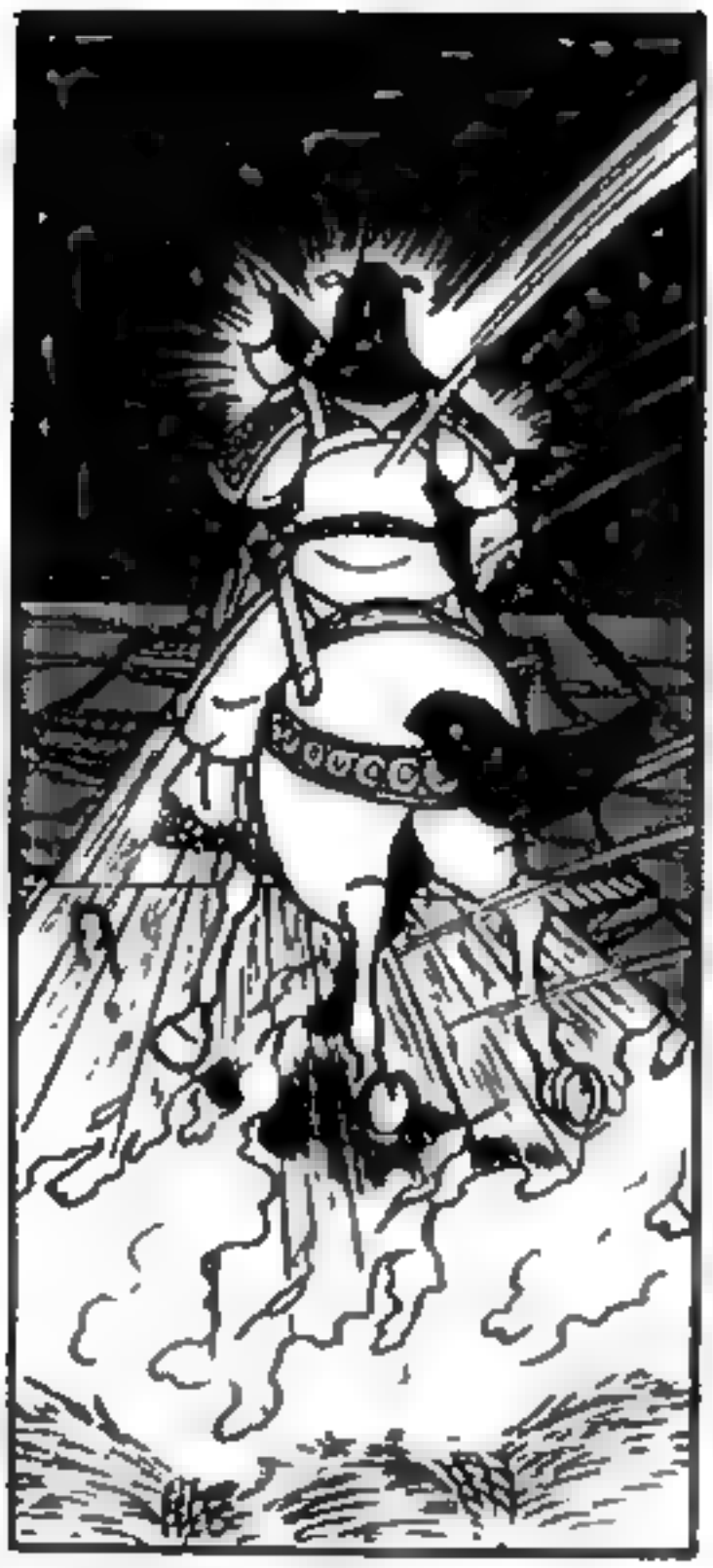



CLEAR THE WAY IF YOU'RE FOND OF YOUR HEADS STILL ATTACHED TO YOUR NECKS!


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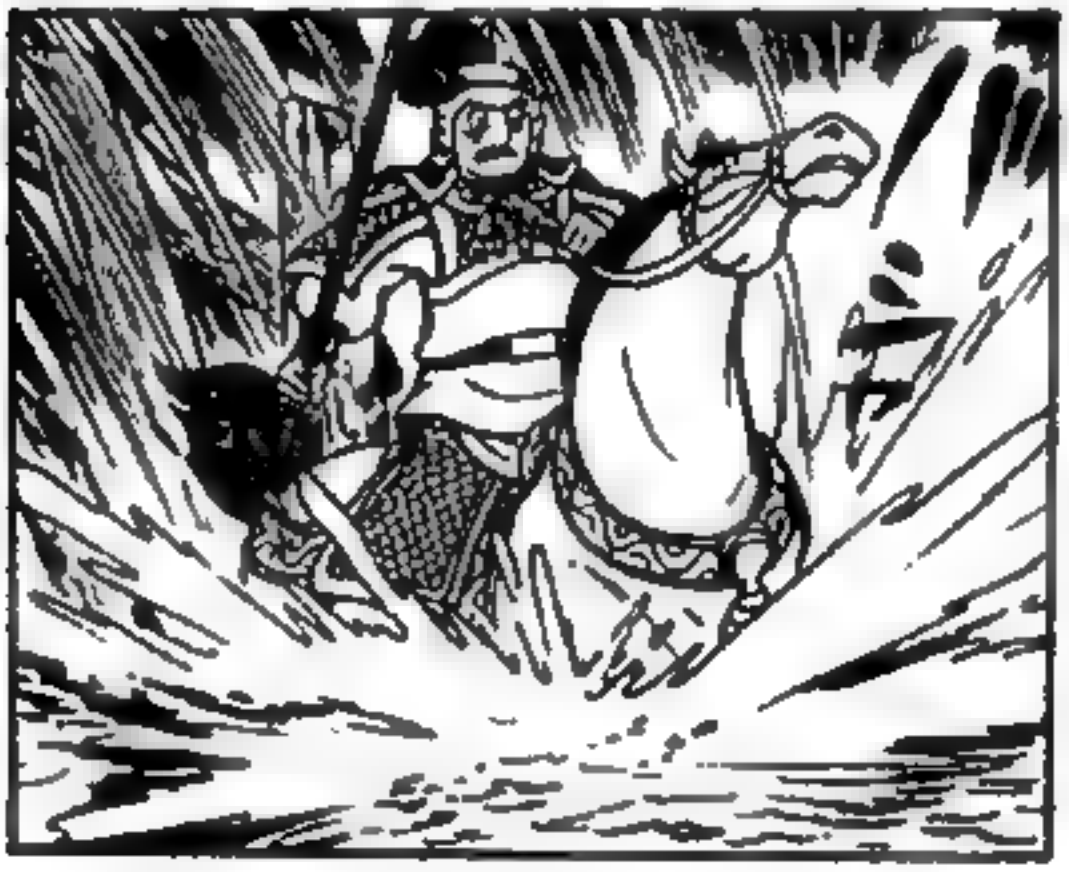


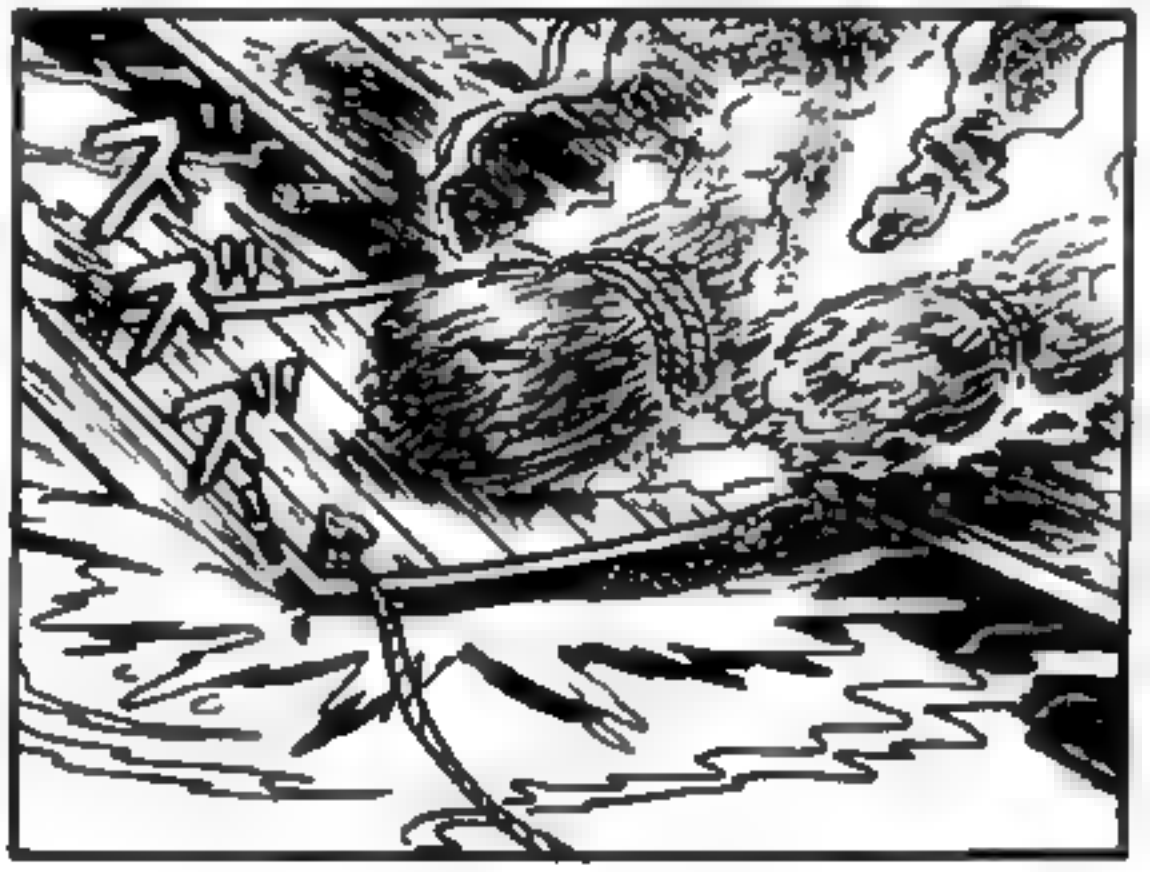


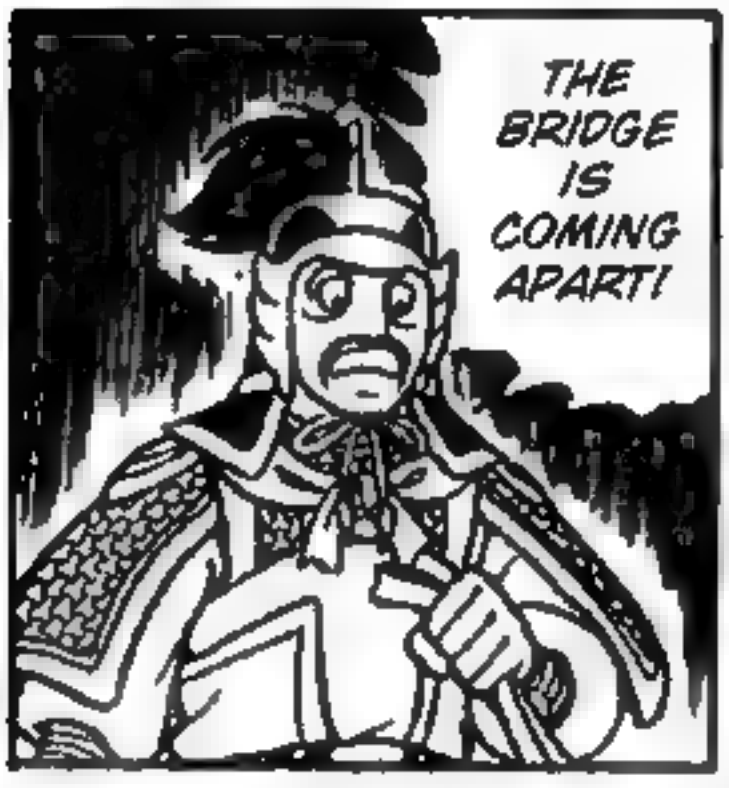










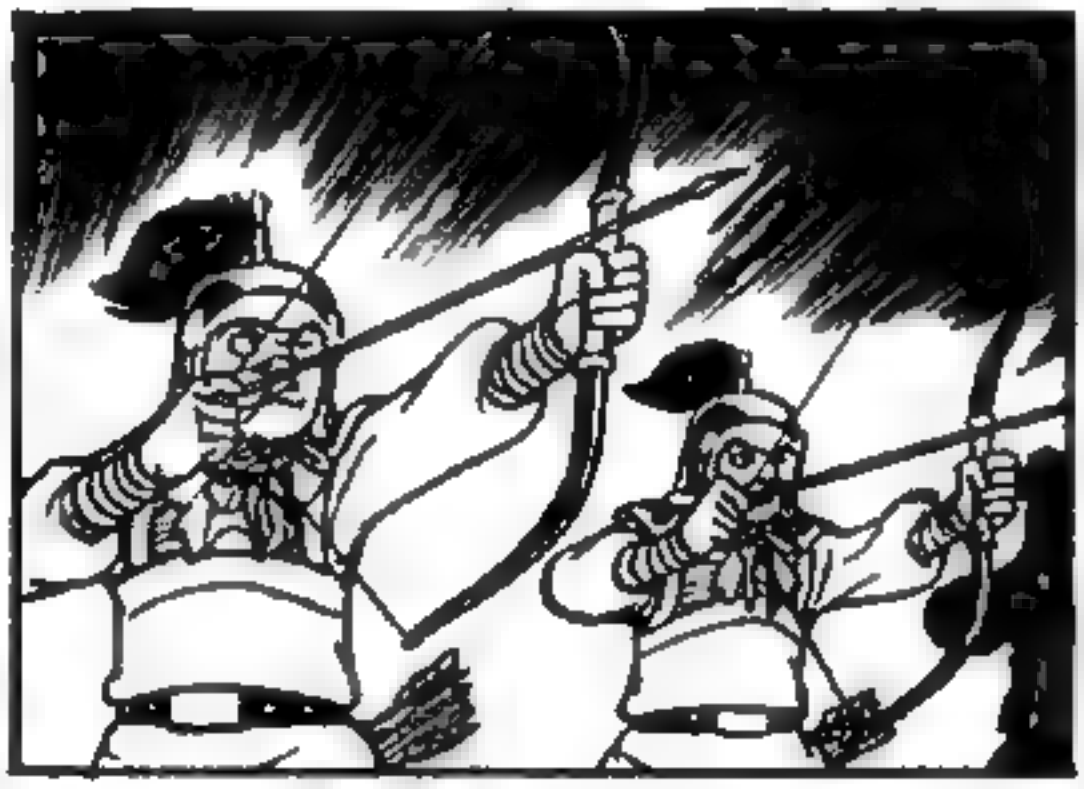

THE BRIDGE IS COMING APART!


AGHHH!


WE'LL BE CUT TO PIECES AT THIS RATE!







GAHH!

AHH!

THE DAY ENDED IN XU HUANG S STINGING DEFEAT




DID YOU NOT NOTICE MY MEN FIGHTING ACROSS THE RIVER!? WHY DID YOU NOT SEND HELP!?
I AM HERE, GENERAL.
WANG PING! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU!?
I COULD NOT LEAVE THIS CAMP EMPTY FOR FEAR OF AN ENEMY ATTACK.
WHAT!?
SINCE I INITIALLY ADVISED AGAINST THE ATTACK, I DO NOT BEAR ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BATTLE'S OUTCOME, WHICH SOLELY LIES WITH YOU.

MY COWARDICE OR BRAVERY HAS NO BEARING ON THIS MATTER, SIR.

HOW DARE YOU USE YOUR COWARDICE TO AVOID BLAME!

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EXECUTE THIS MAN!

MNN...

YES, WE MUST REORGANIZE AND PREPARE FOR FURTHER ENEMY ATTACKS.

SIR! I MUST ADVISE AGAINST THAT. TURNING ON EACH OTHER IS THE LAST COURSE OF ACTION WE WANT TO TAKE AFTER A DEMORALIZING LOSS.

VERY WELL! I WILL FORGET YOUR IMPUDENCE TODAY, WANG PING!

I WANT THE DEFENSES TIGHTENED UP FOR THE NIGHT!

YES, I WAS THINKING JUST THE SAME...

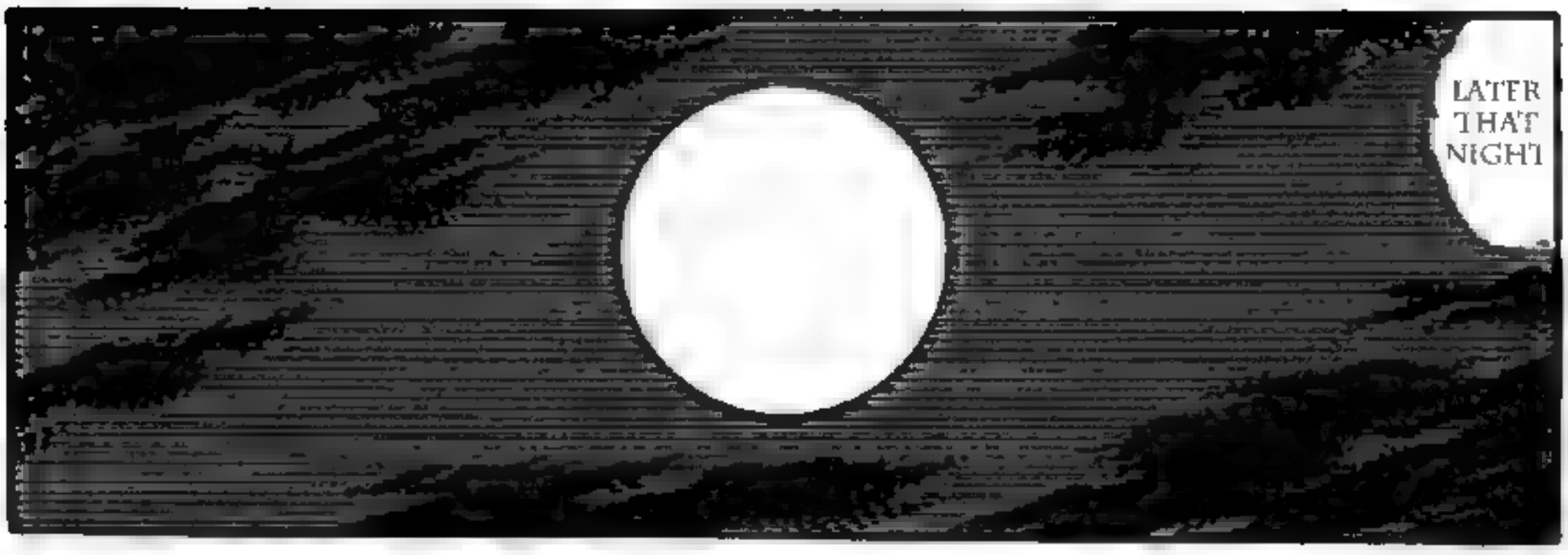
HE SAYS HE'LL FORGET, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW HE'LL REPORT THIS TO THE CHANCE..LOR?

SO BE IT, WE'LL DEFECT TO SHU.

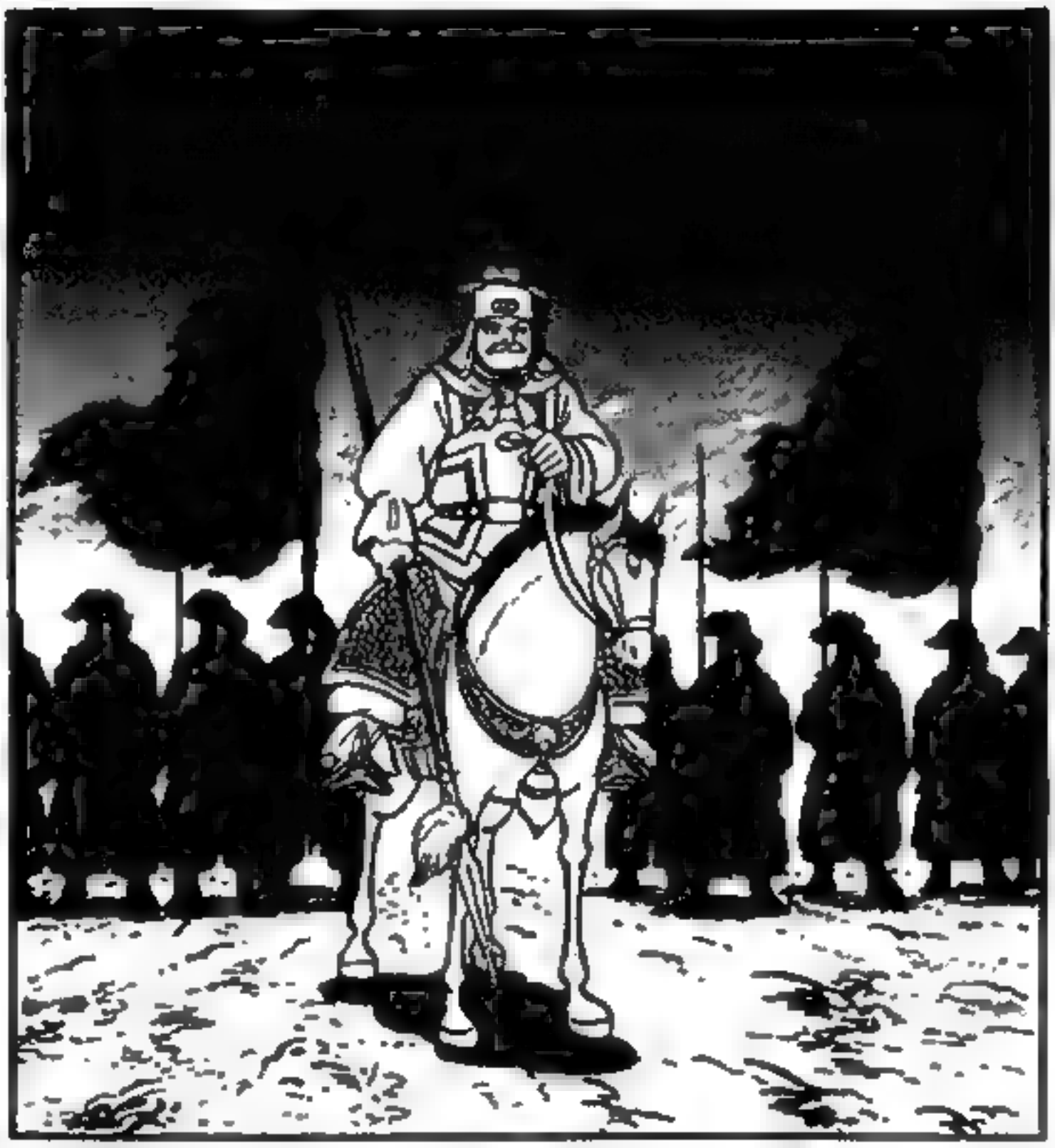
MY HEAD IS SURE TO FLY WHEN HE BLAMES ME FOR HIS FAILURE...

RIGHT.

BUT WE'LL NEED TO ACCOMPLISH SOME DEED FAVOURABLE FOR THEM IF WE WANT TO BE TAKEN IN.

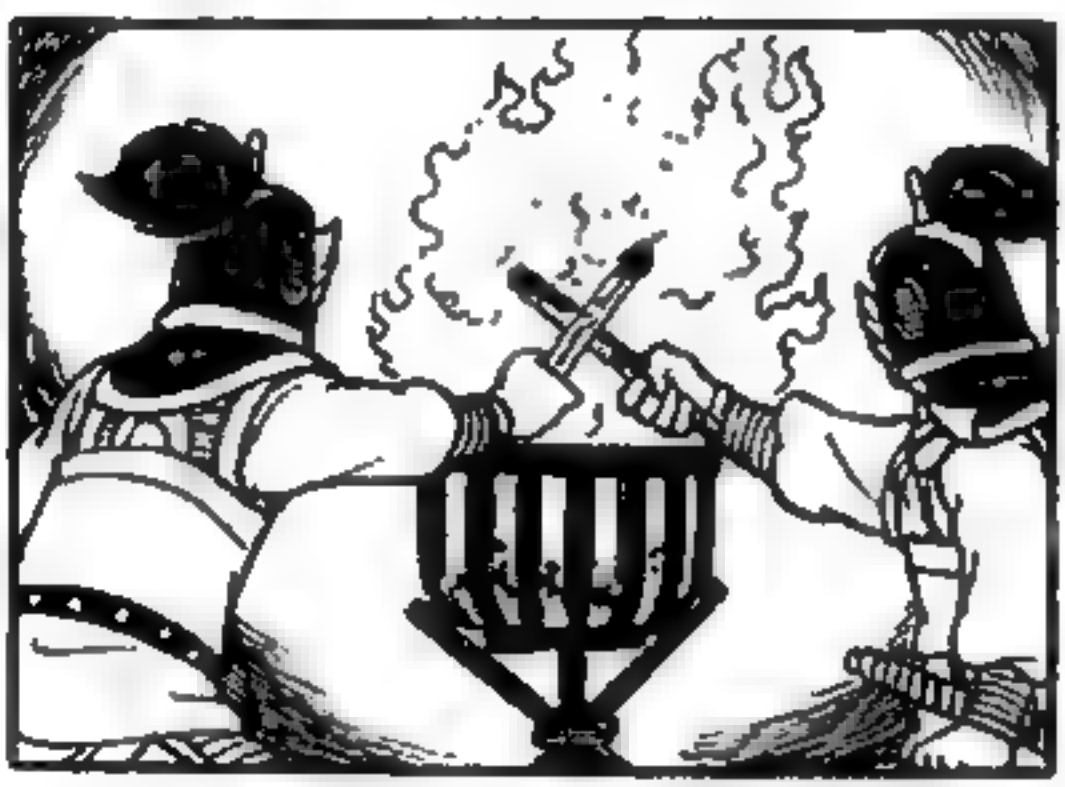

LATER
THAT
NIGHT

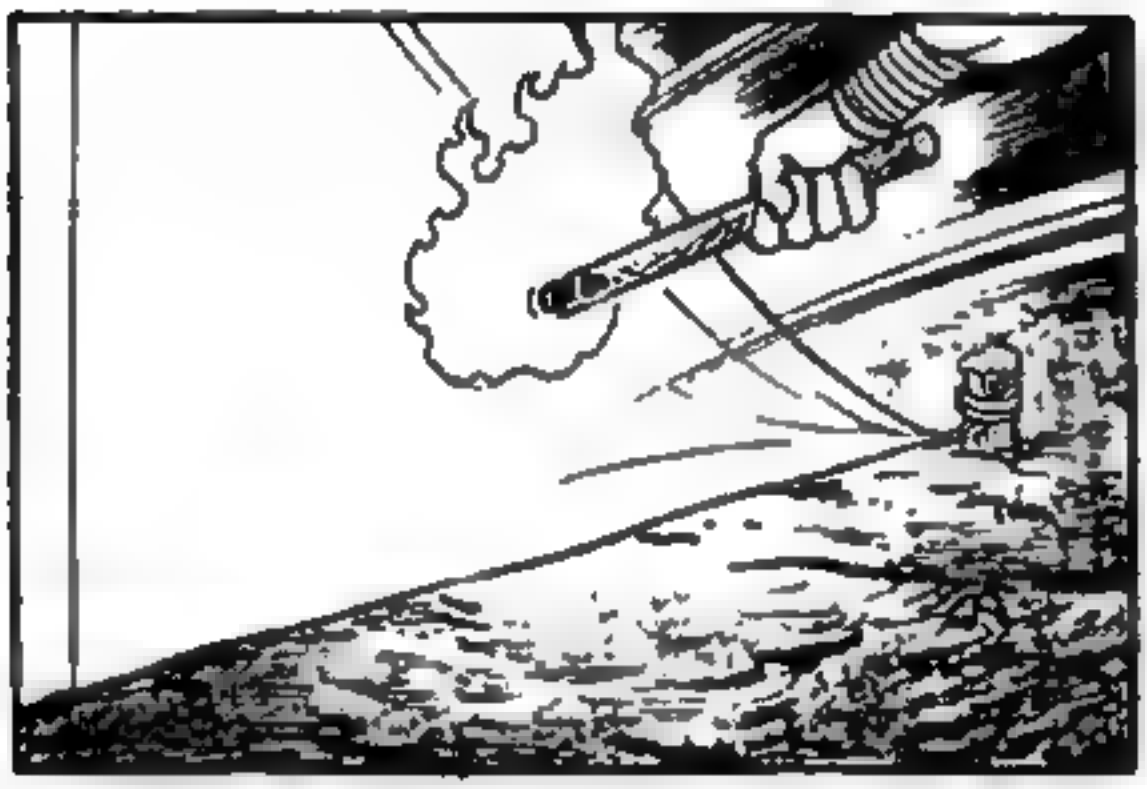

LET'S
BEGIN.




YES.










THE SHU ARE ATTACKING!
ENEMY RAID!
FIRE!
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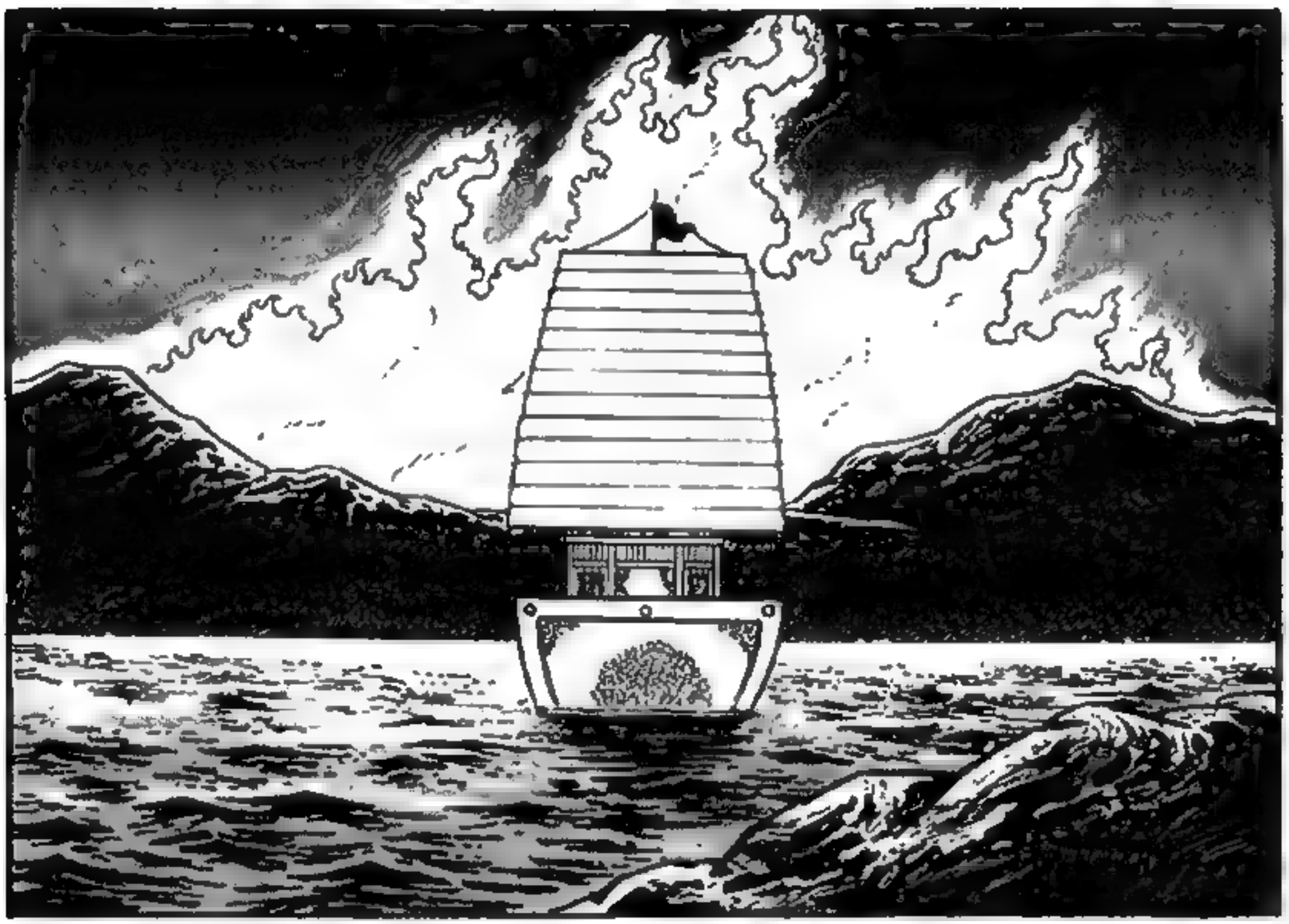
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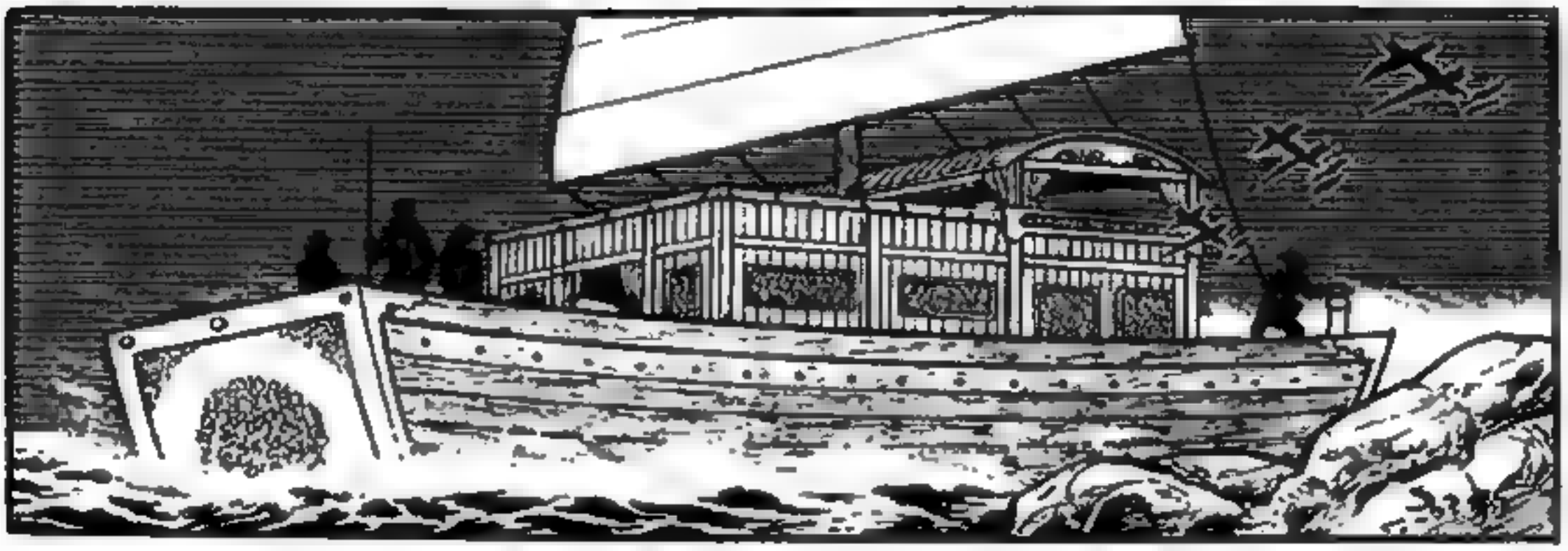
WHAT!?

SIR! THE ENEMY CAMP ACROSS THE RIVER IS ON FIRE!


SIR!
A SHIP IS
APPROACH-
ING!


I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED?





WHAT!?

I AM XU HUANG'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, WANG PING!

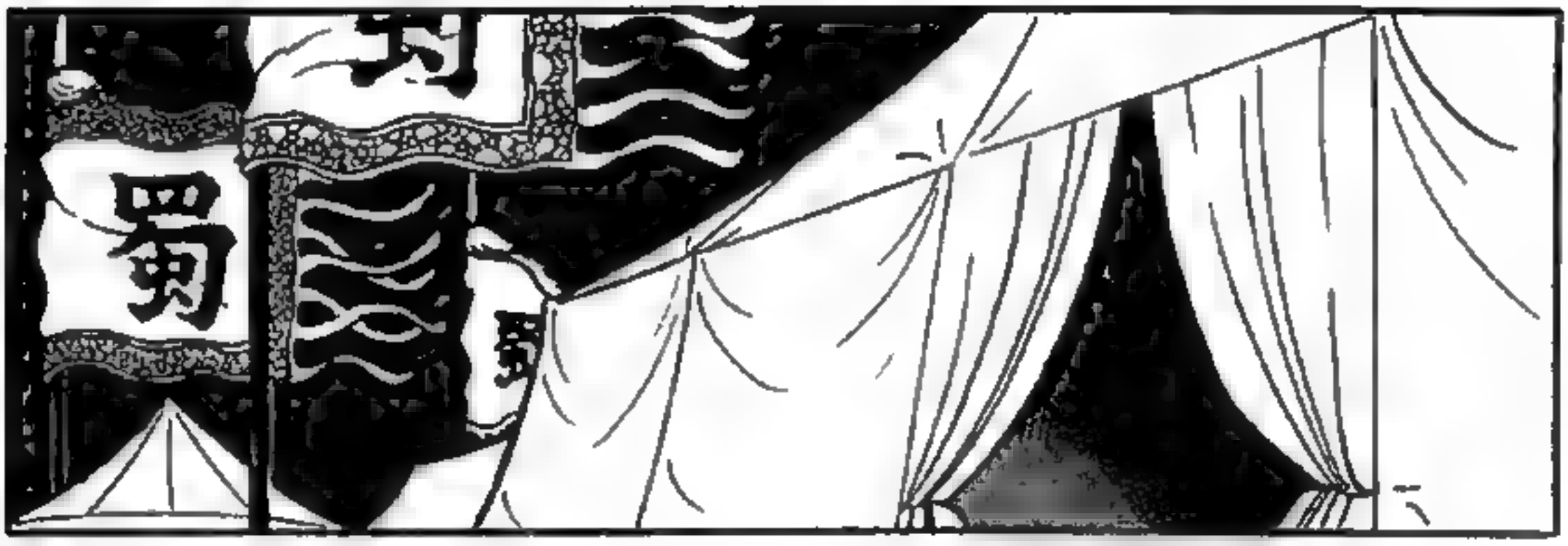
HALT! WHO GOES THERE!?

WHY WOULD THE ENEMY'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND BE HERE!?

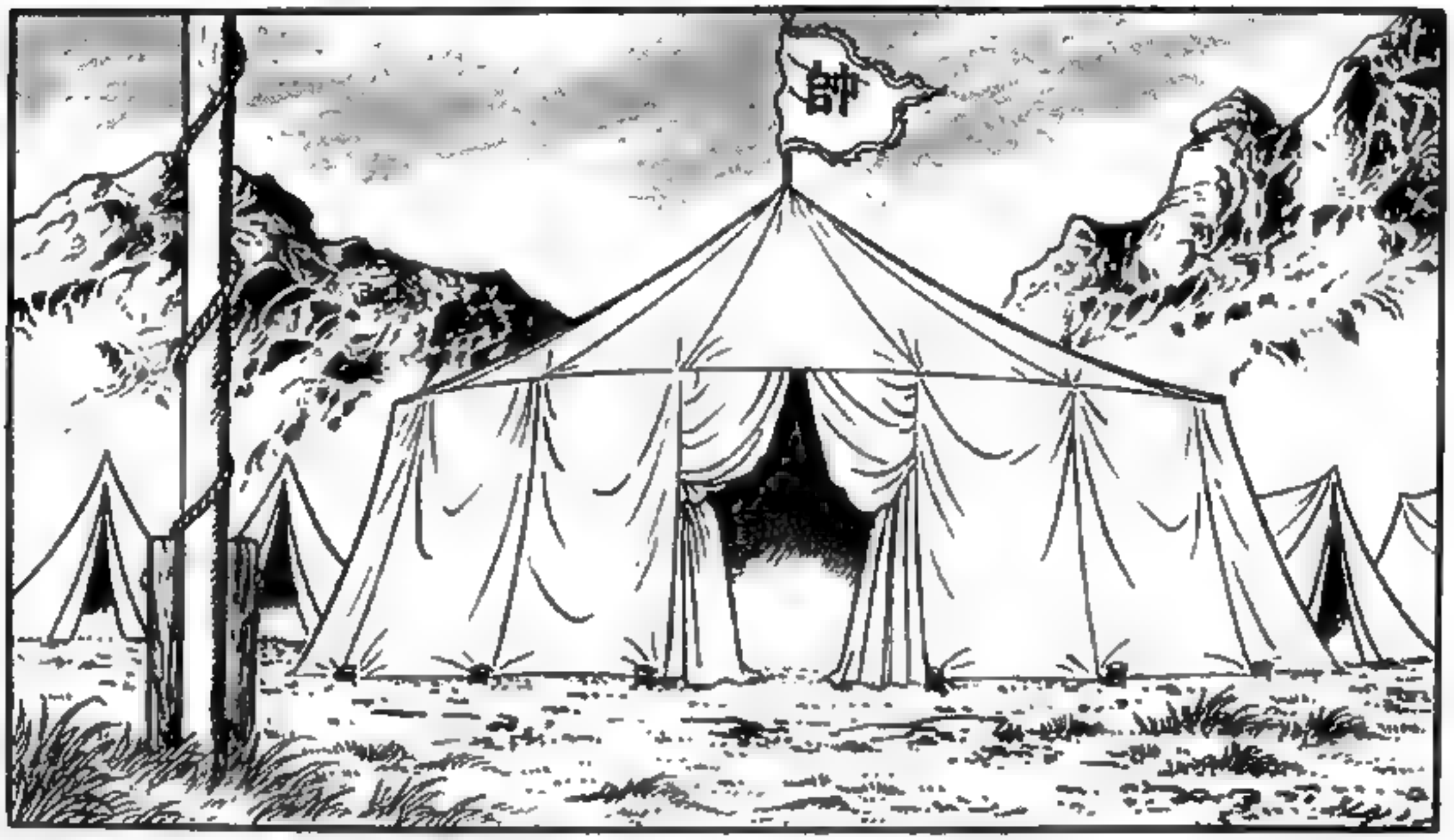
THE ENEMY CAMPS ON FIRE THAT YOU NOW SEE? THAT WAS MY PROOF OF SINCERITY IN WISHING TO DEFECT TO SHU.

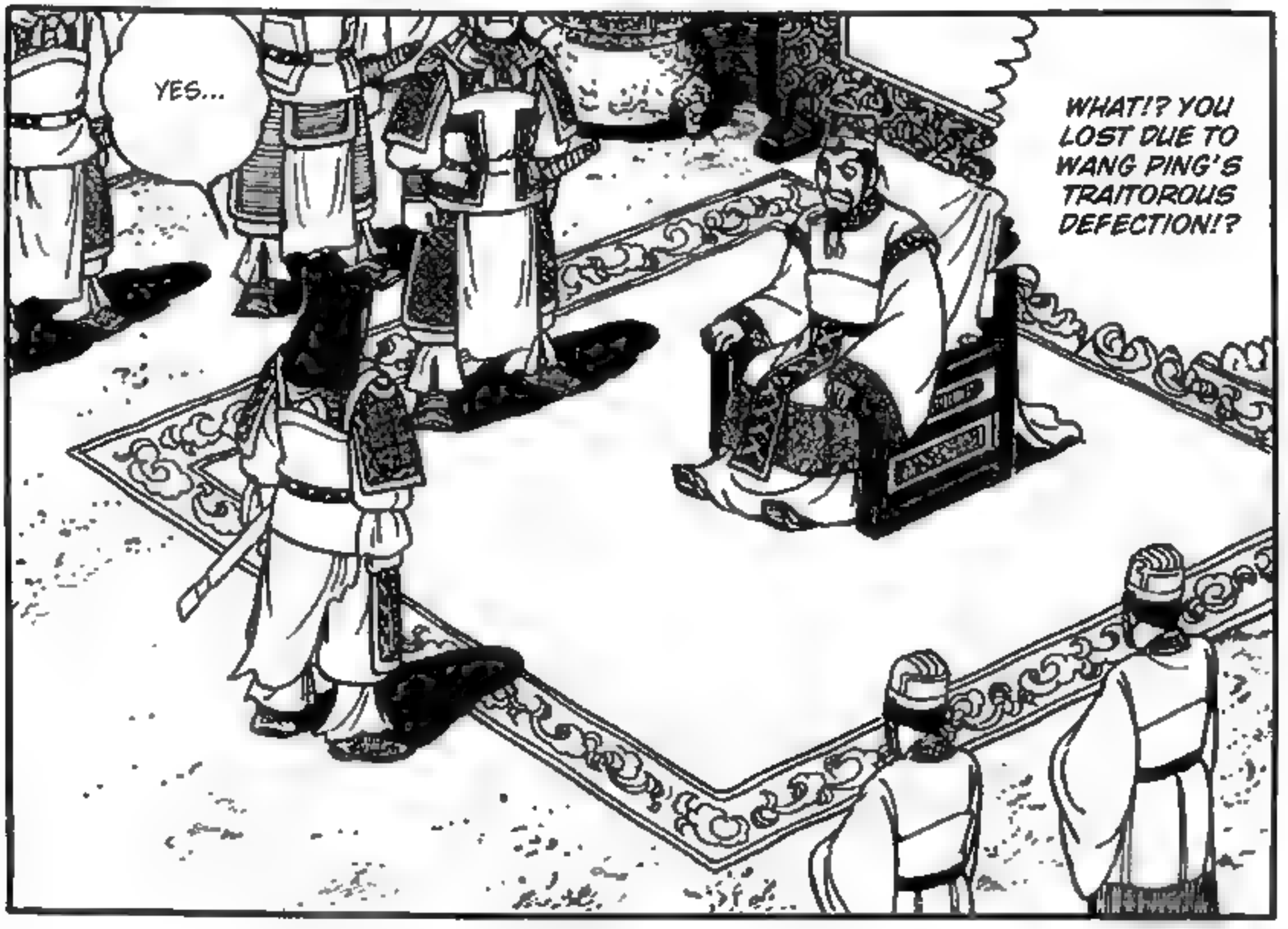
THANK YOU.

VERY WELL, COME ASHORE.


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SPLENDID. WELCOME ABOARD, THEN. I AM HAPPY TO INSTATE YOU AS THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO SUPERVISE THE ADVANCE OF OUR FORCES.
YES, SIR.
OH, SO YOU WERE PLACED SECOND-IN-COMMAND TO XU HUANG FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS REGION'S GEOGRAPHY?
KNOWING THAT GEOG RAPHY IS KEY IN WAR, LIU BEI COULD NOT BE HAPPIER TO RECEIVE A MAN FAMILIAR WITH THE LAY OF THE LAND IN HANZHONG

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

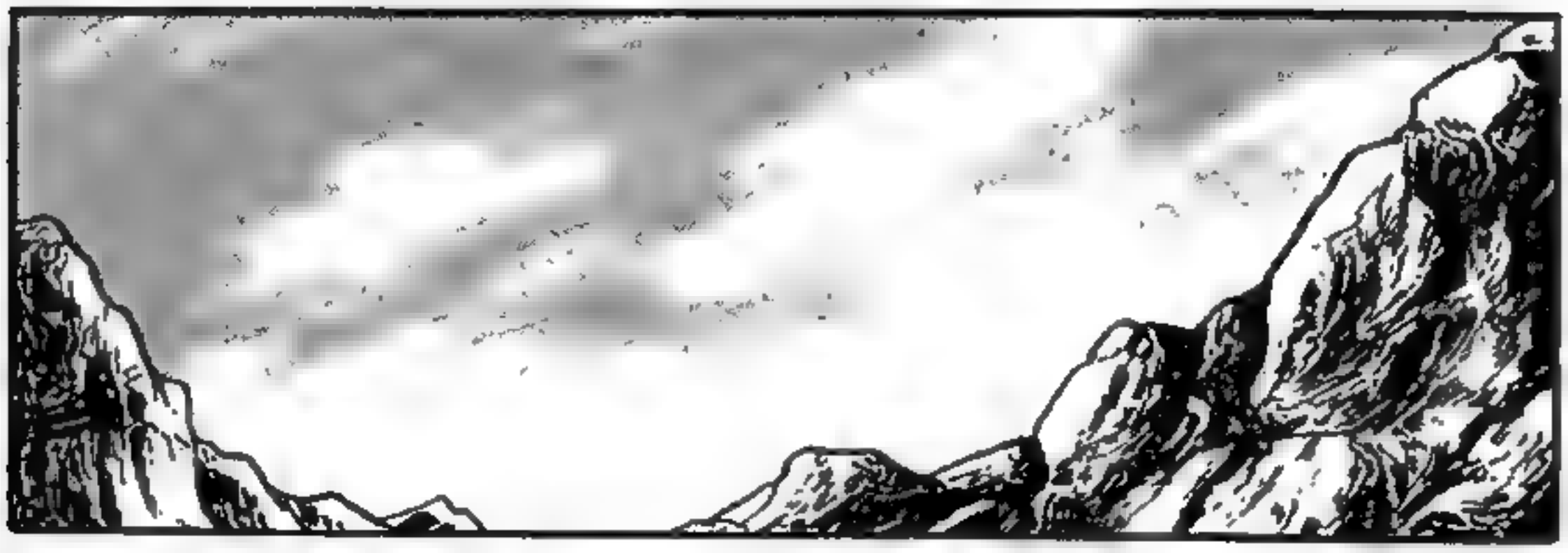





THIS TIME, I'LL PERSONALLY HEAD OUR ADVANCE TO TAKE BACK THE HAN RIVER!
CURSE THOSE REBELS...


ANGERED BY XU HUANG'S REPORT, CAO CAO DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS


UPON REACHING THE HAN RIVER, HE SET UP CAMPS FACING THE SHU CAMPS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER




EXCELLENT, WANG PING. THIS BASIN WILL INDEED BE HARD TO SPOT FROM WHERE THE ENEMIES ARE CAMPED.




IT'S THE PERFECT SPOT TO HIDE TROOPS...


LET'S CROSS THE RIVER BACK TO OUR SIDE NOW.

YES?

ZHAO ZILONG!

EACH NIGHT, A FIRE ARROW WILL BE SHOT INTO THE SKY. WHEN YOU SEE THAT SIGNAL, MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS YOU CAN WITH YOUR DRUMS AND TRUMPETS.

UPSTREAM THE HAN RIVER FROM HERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHORE IS A BASIN IDEAL FOR HIDING TROOPS. YOU ARE TO TAKE 500 TROOPS THERE WITH WAR DRUMS AND HORN TRUMPETS.




UNDER-
STOOD.


THUS,
ZHAO
ZILONG
AND HIS
500 MEN.


HID IN
THIS
BASIN AS
PLANNED

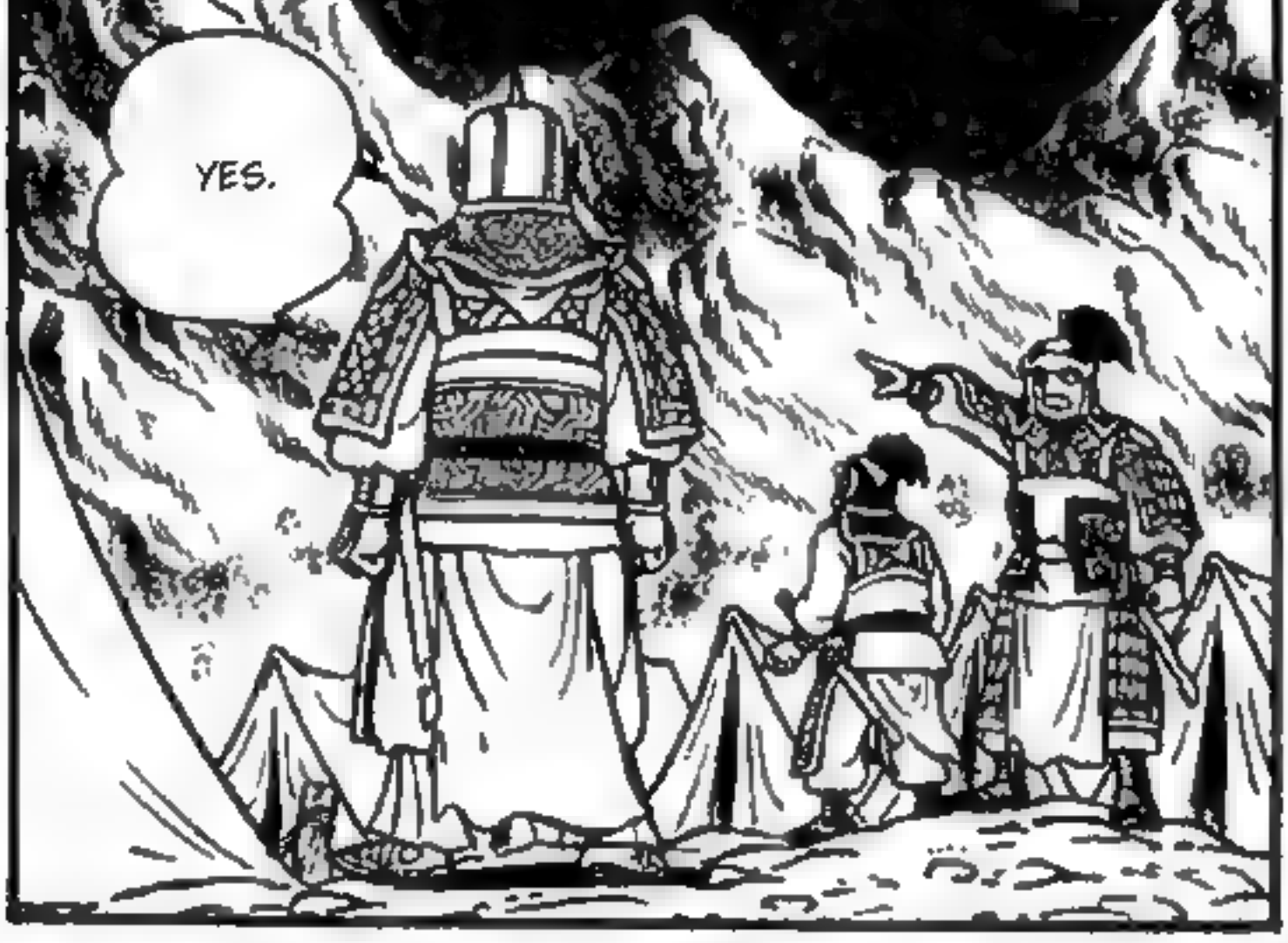
GIVE THEM THE SIGNAL.

YES, SIR.

SIR! IT'S THE SIGNAL!

YES.





IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOME NOISE, MEN!



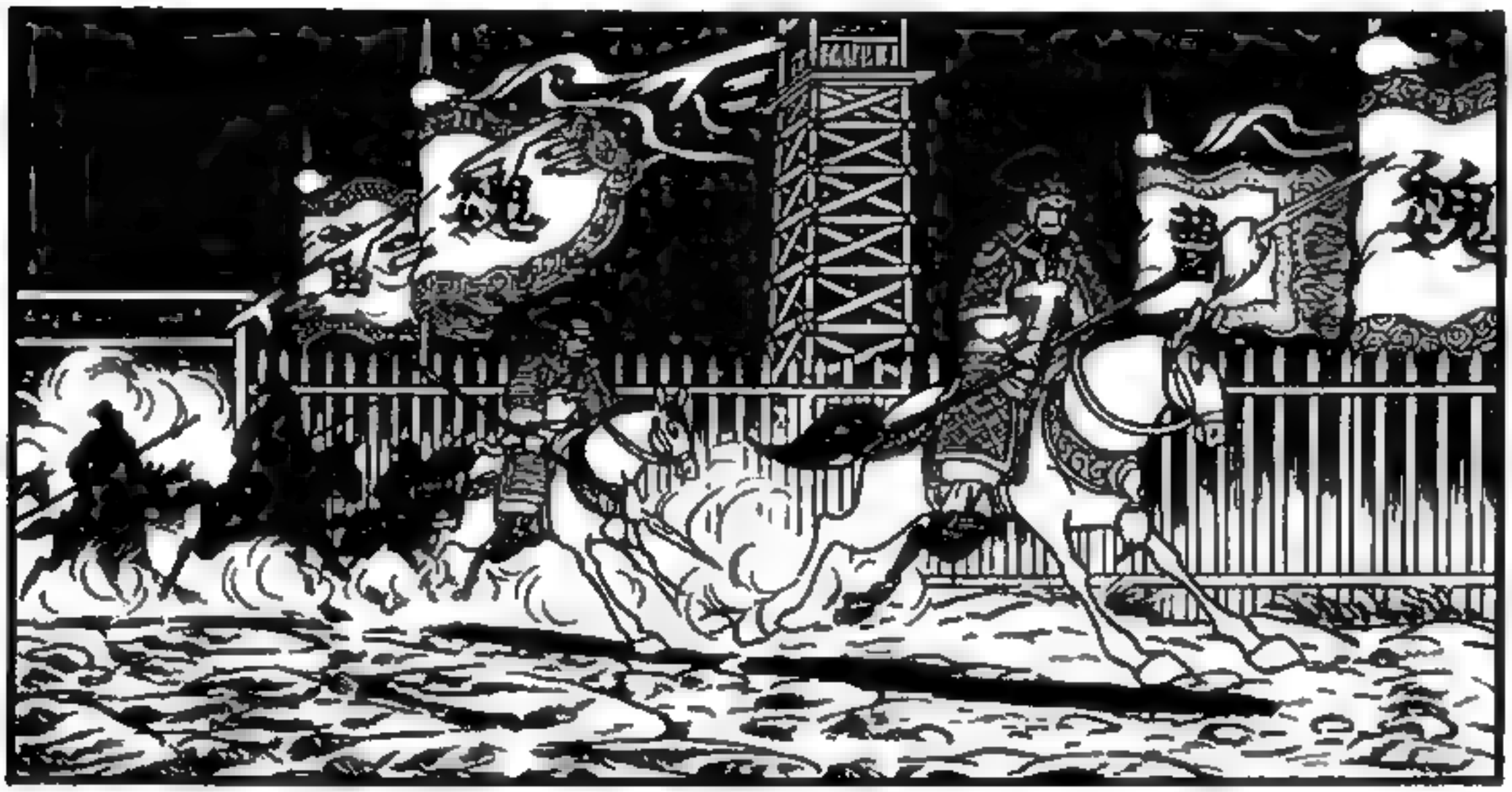
BEAT THE DRUMS!

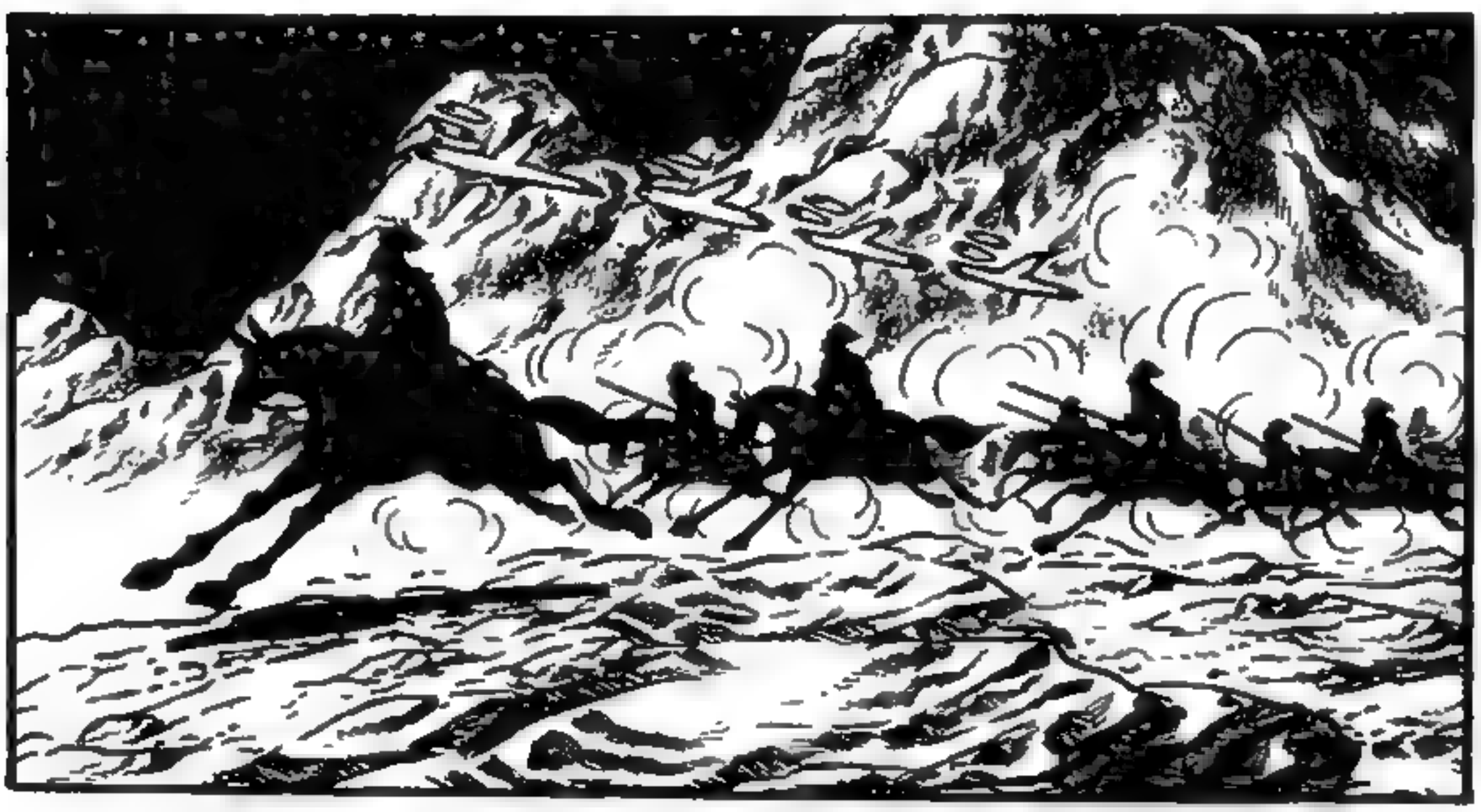

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HM?


SOUNDS LIKE IT, SIR.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IS IT AN ENEMY RAID!?


THE SEARCH IS ALREADY UNDERWAY, SIR.


GO FIND OUT WHERE THE ENEMIES ARE ATTACKING FROM!


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WHAT!? YOU COULDN'T FIND THEM!?

STILL, IT'S BEST NOT TO LET OUR GUARDS DOWN. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS ON DUTY AT NIGHT.

HM...

YES, SIR.

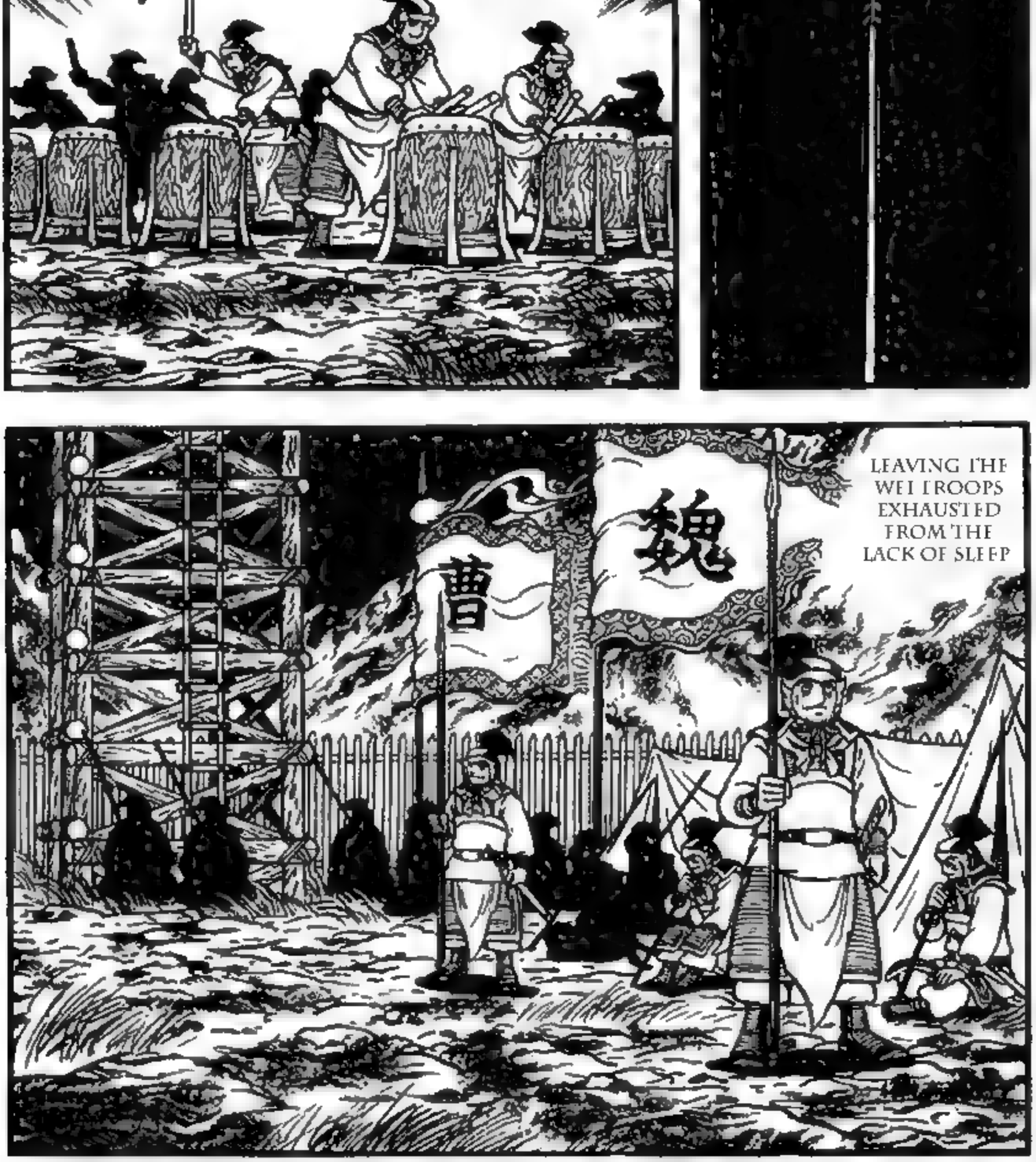
AGAIN!?


WE MUST FIND THEM!


THE WEI TROOPS SEARCHED WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT, BUT THE HILLS OF THE BASIN BOUNCED ONE ECHO OFF AFTER ANOTHER, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE WHERE THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE NOISE WAS


FOR THREE NIGHTS IN A ROW . HE WAR DRUMS BLAT




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魏
LEAVING THE WEI TROOPS EXHAUSTED FROM THE LACK OF SLEEP

FINE, LET US WITHDRAW SEVERAL LI BACK AND CAMP ON FLATTER LAND.

YES, SIR.

AT THIS RATE, OUR TROOPS WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO STAND FROM EXHAUSTION.

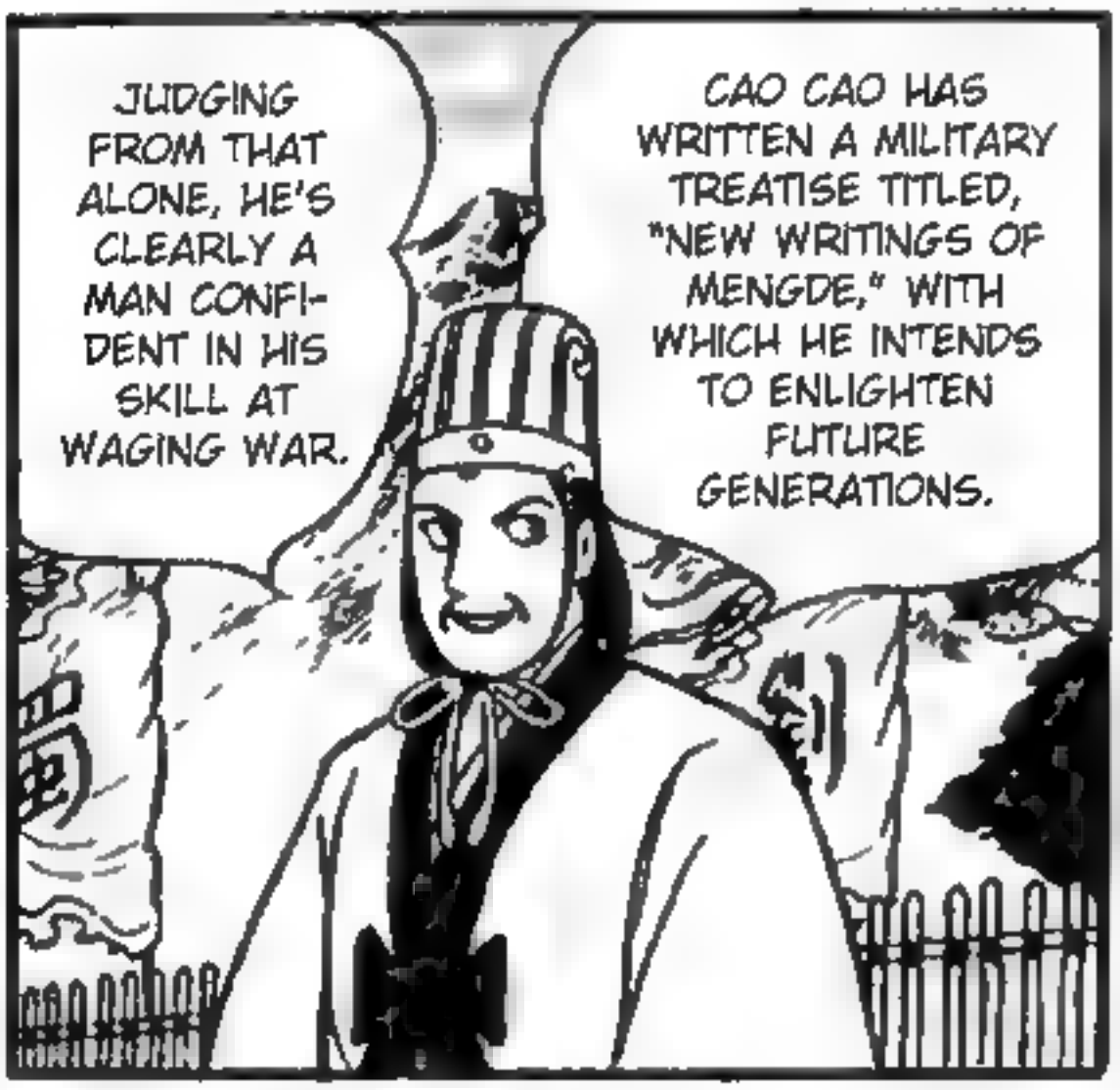
HMM... KONGMING MUST BE UP TO SOMETHING, AND YET HE'S HELD OFF FROM ATTACKING SO FAR.

IN HIS UNEASE, CAO CAO DECIDED TO RELOCATE HIS CAMPS 30 LI BACK TO A PLAIN SO AS TO AVOID DEALING WITH THE NIGHTLY "ASSAULTS."

THE WISE DROWN IN THEIR OWN WISDOM




THAT IS PRECISELY HIS WEAKNESS. AS THEY SAY, THE WISE DROWN IN THEIR OWN WISDOM.
AS THE LANGUAGE OF WAR IS DECEPTION, HIS FAMILIARITY WITH WAR HAS MADE HIM VERY SUSPICIOUS OF ALL THINGS.
蜀


JUDGING FROM THAT ALONE, HE'S CLEARLY A MAN CONFIDENT IN HIS SKILL AT WAGING WAR.
CAO CAO HAS WRITTEN A MILITARY TREATISE TITLED, "NEW WRITINGS OF MENGDE," WITH WHICH HE INTENDS TO ENLIGHTEN FUTURE GENERATIONS.
蜀
劉

EXACTLY.

THEN HE FALSELY EXPECTED THAT WE HAD SOME DANGEROUS PLAN AND WITHDREW FROM THE RIVER?

SETTING CAMP WITH THE RIVER TO OUR REAR!?

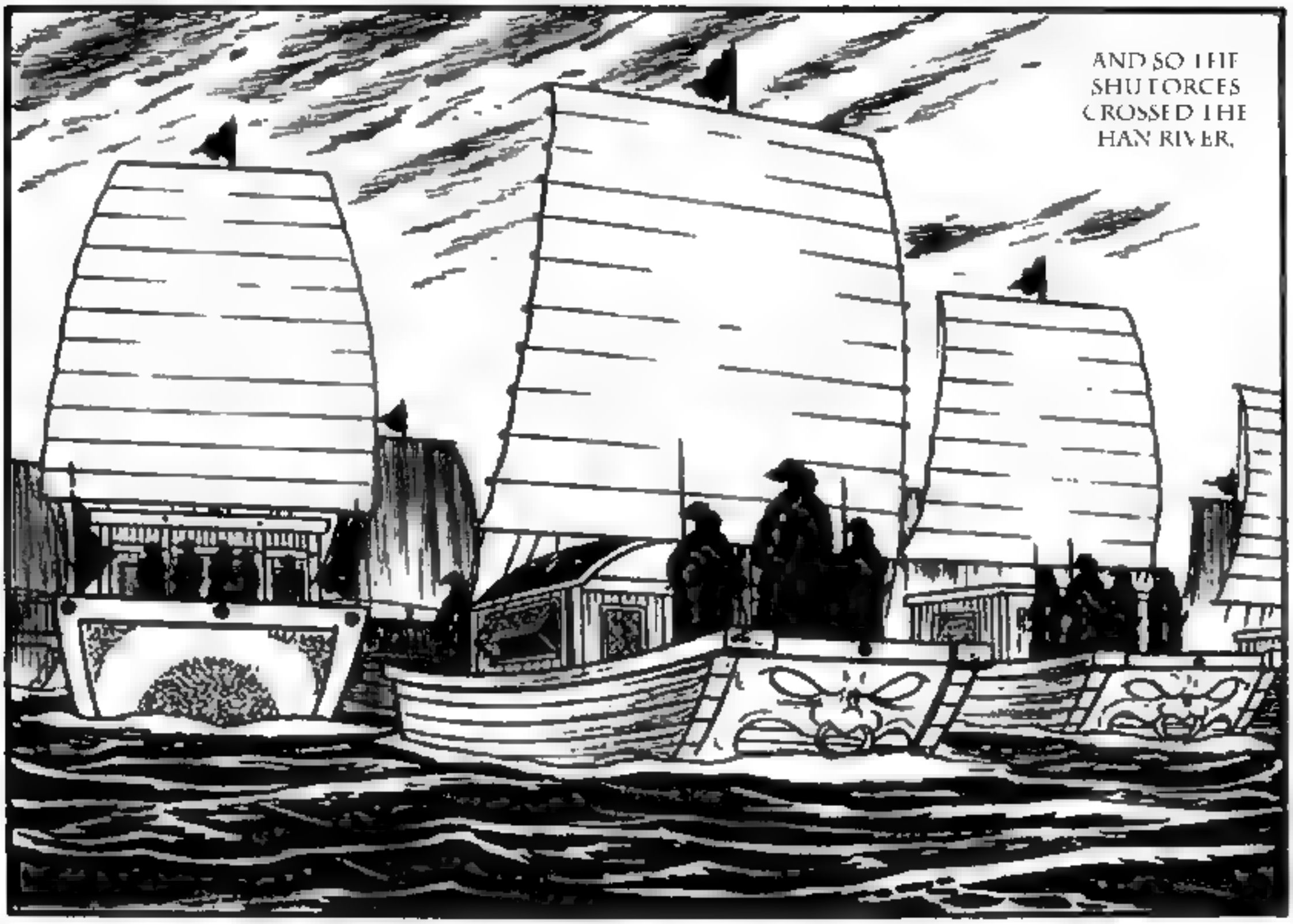
WE SHOULD NOW CROSS THE RIVER AND MAKE CAMP WITH THE RIVER TO OUR REAR.

CAO CAO WILL NO DOUBT THINK THE SAME, MY LORD.

KONGMING, CAO CAO IS STILL A FORMIDABLE FOE. AS XU HUANG'S ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATED, THAT IS A FAR TOO RISKY MOVE.

I SEE. VERY WELL, LET US CROSS THE RIVER.

THE BOLD RISKINESS IS PRECISELY WHAT WILL DRIVE CAO CAO DEEPER INTO PARANOIA, AND LESS EAGER TO ATTACK.


AND SO THE
SHU FORCES
CROSSED THE
HAN RIVER.


AND SET
UP A NEW
CAMP JUST
IN FRONT
OF THE
RIVER


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魏
WHAT!? THEY'VE CAMPED WITH THE RIVER TO THEIR REAR!?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT THEY MUST BE TRYING TO MAKE ME THINK THAT I'M BEING UNDERESTIMATED, POSSIBLY TO GOAD ME INTO ATTACKING.
PUTTING THE RIVER TO YOUR REAR IS A HIGH-RISK MOVE YOU ONLY DO WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR ENEMIES HAVE NO REAL PLANS. ARE THEY INSINUATING THAT I WAGE WAR WITHOUT PLANS?

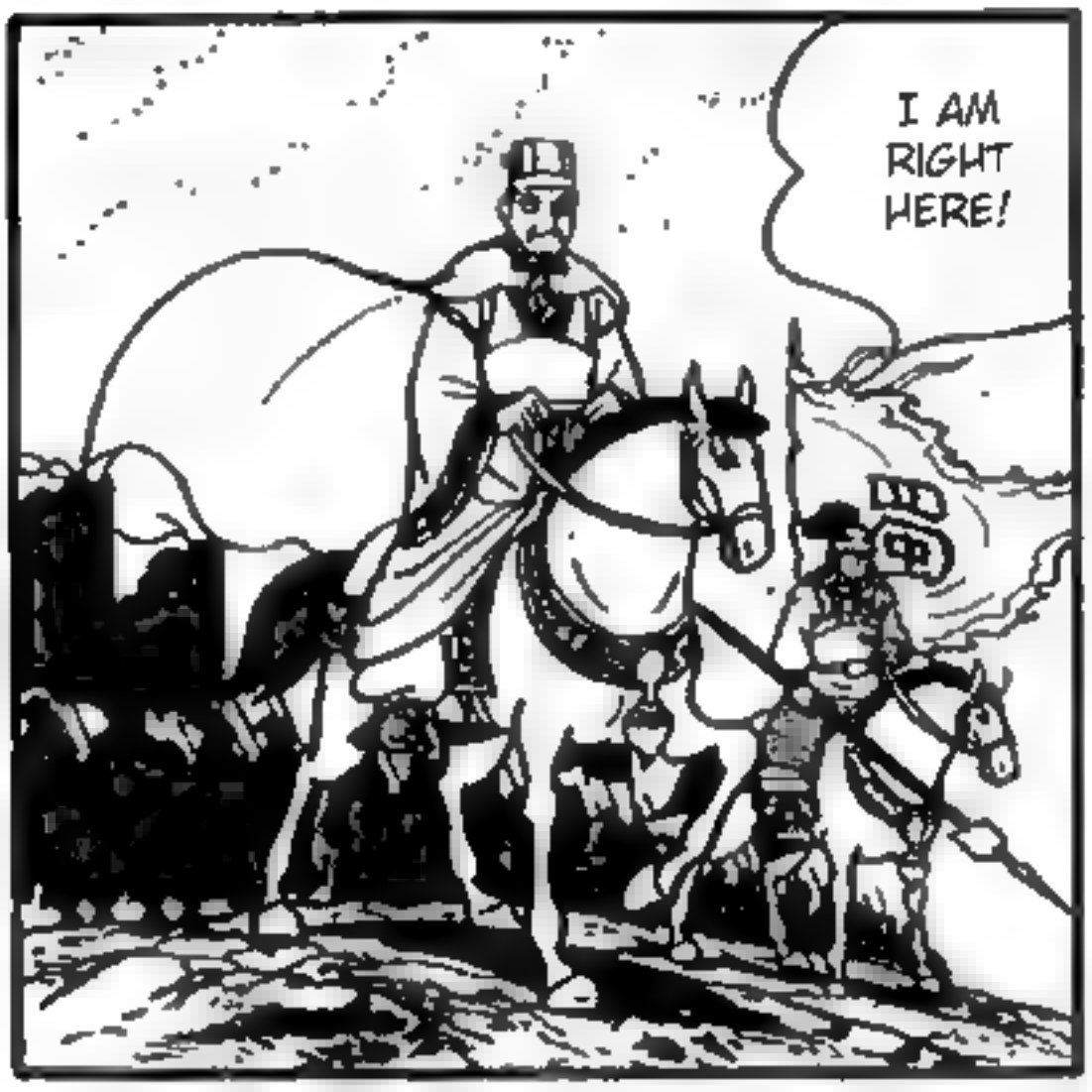

I MUST BE CAUTIOUS...


THE ENEMIES HAVE KONGMING, SO THEY MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING...


THE SHU FORCES FURTHER PRESSURED WEI BY MARCHING OUT WITH ITS ARMY
蜀


IN RESPONSE, THE WEI ARMY FINALLY DECIDED TO GIVE BATTLE AND MARCHED FORTH AS WELL.




I AM RIGHT HERE!


LIU BEI! ARE YOU THERE!?

SILENCE! I AM OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY AND IT IS MY DUTY TO CLEANSE THE LAND OF ALL REBELS! I STAND HERE TODAY TO STRIKE DOWN THE MURDERER OF THE FORMER EMPRESS! I STAND HERE TODAY TO PUNISH THE REBEL WHO ARROGANTLY CALLS HIMSELF THE PRINCE OF WEI!

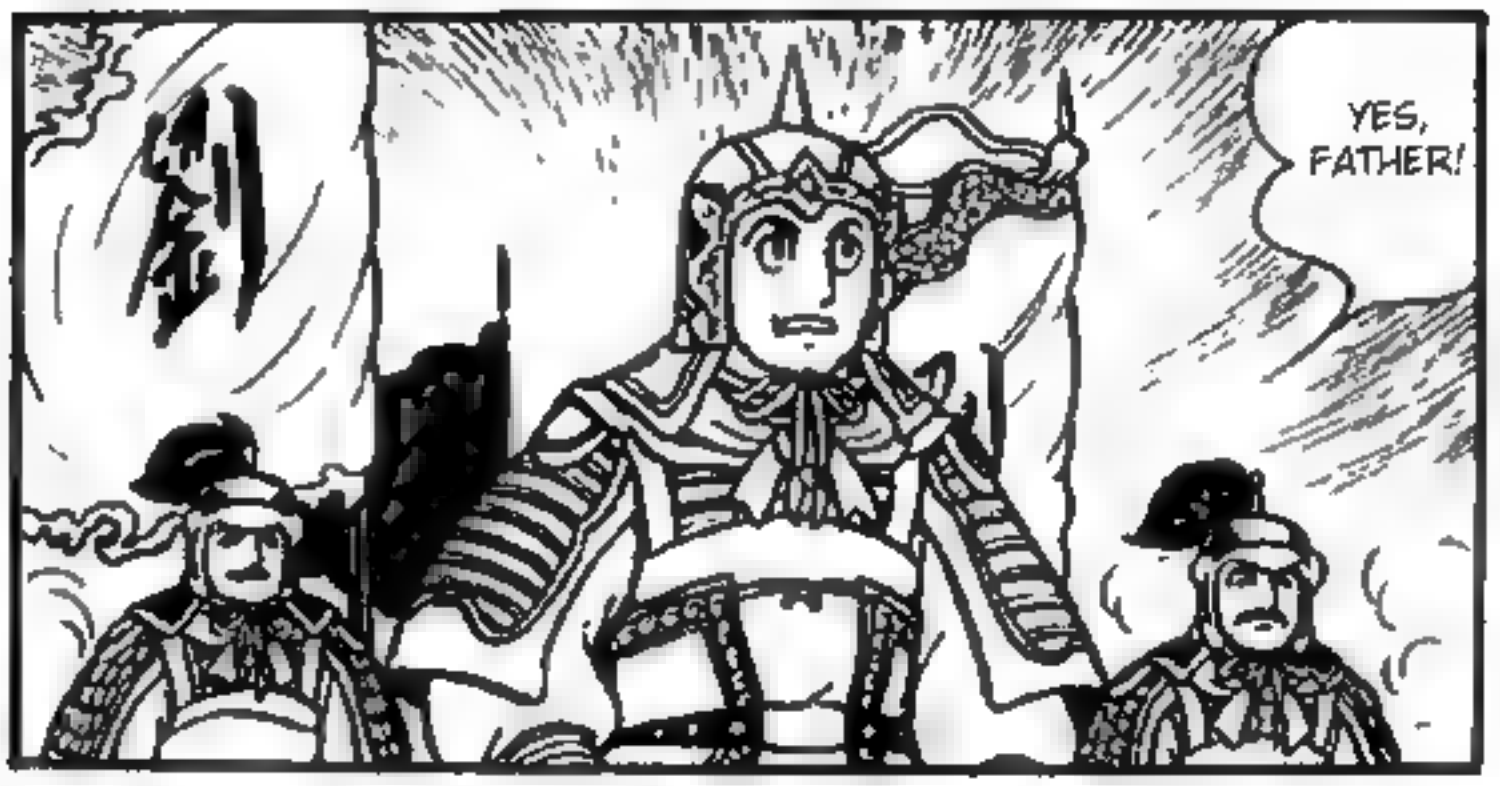
YOU ARE A SCOUNDREL AND A REBEL! HOW DARE YOU TURN YOUR SWORD AGAINST THE IMPERIAL COURT!

YES, SIR!

魏

XU HUANG! ATTACK!

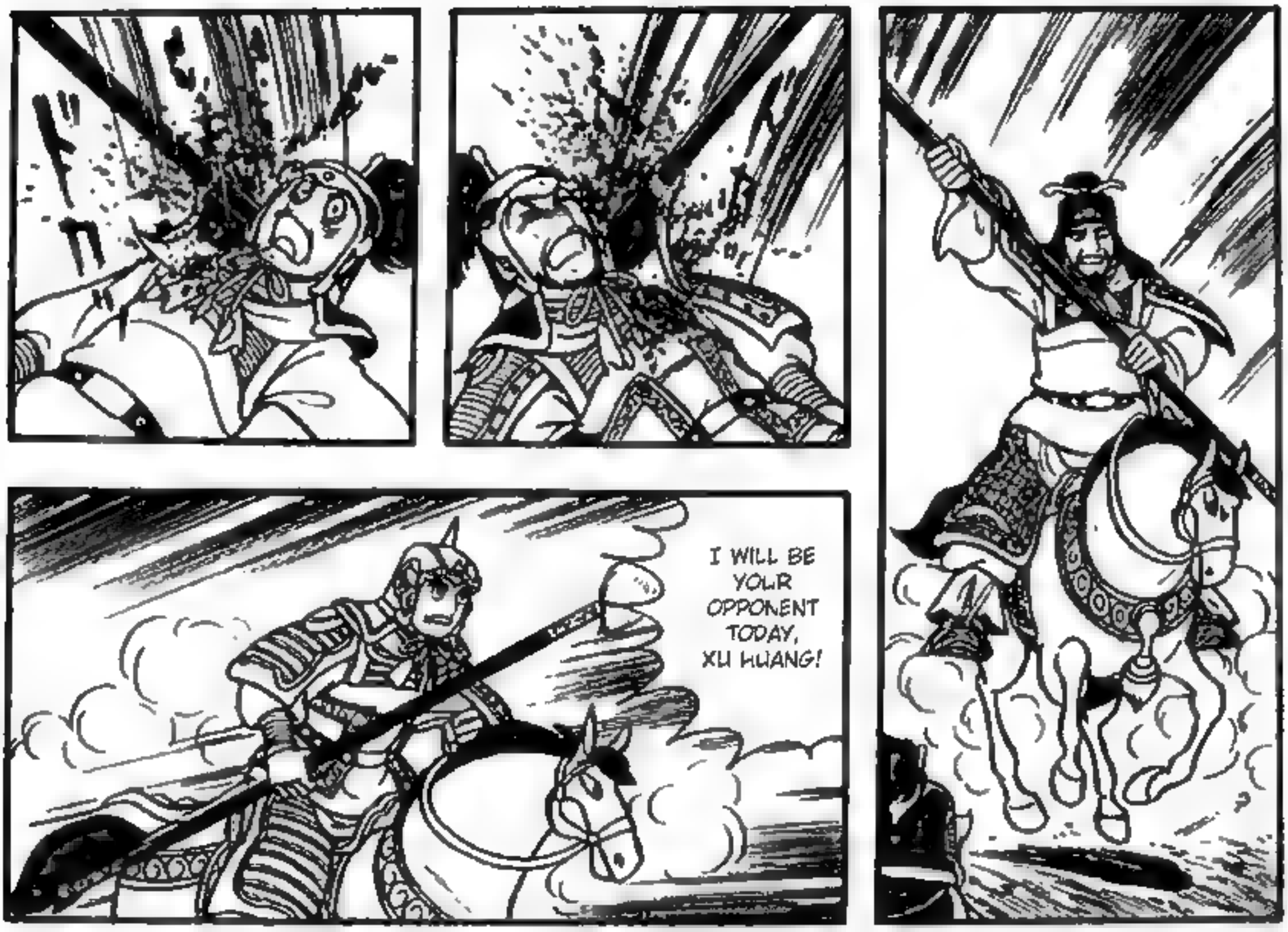
THAT ROTTEN CUR...


YES, FATHER!


LIU FENG! ADVANCE!

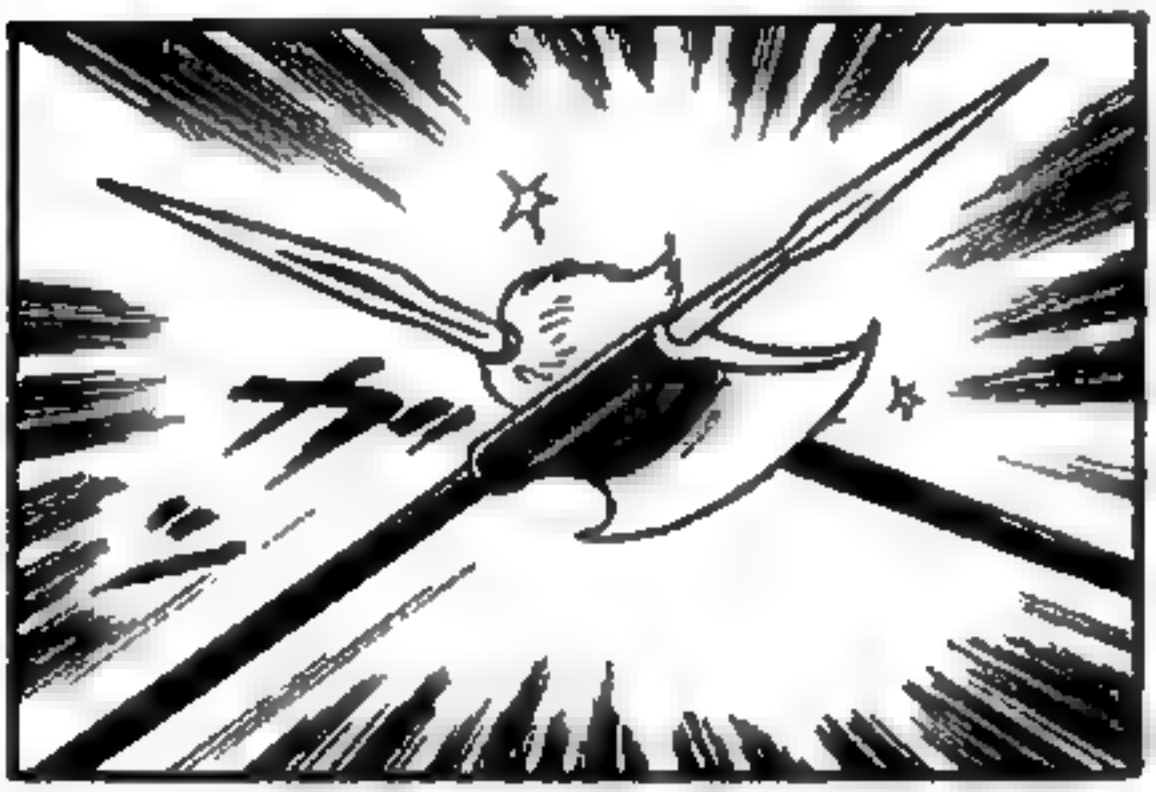


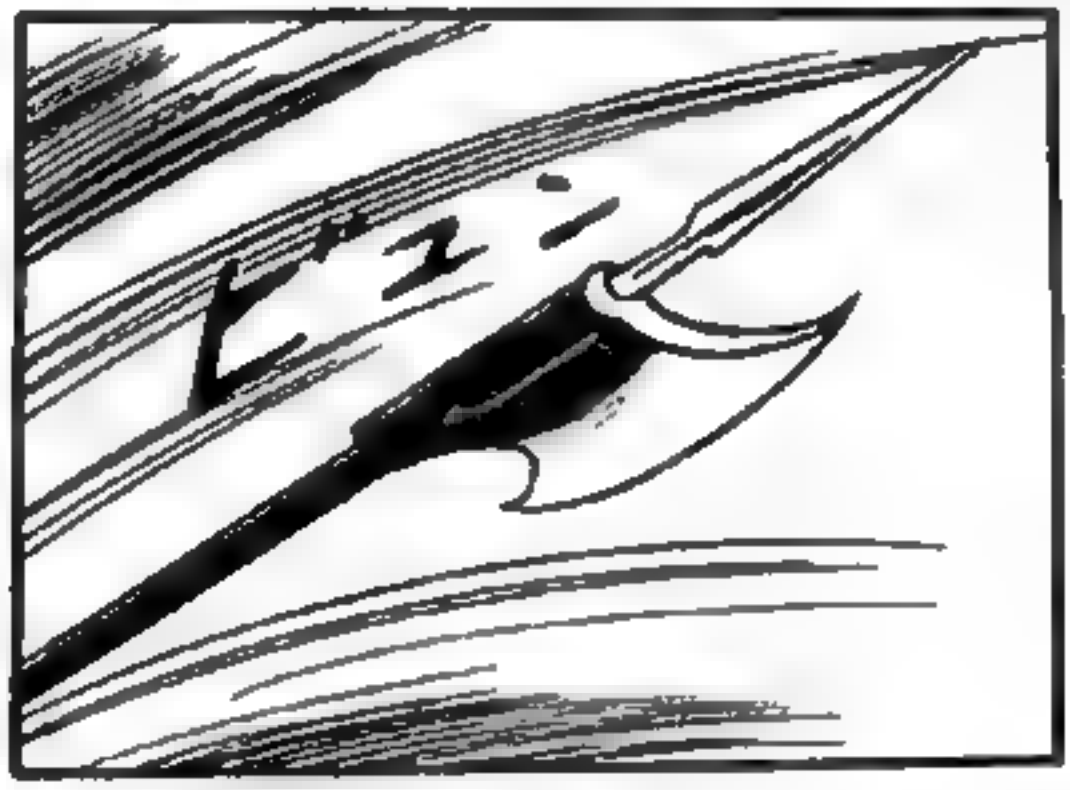


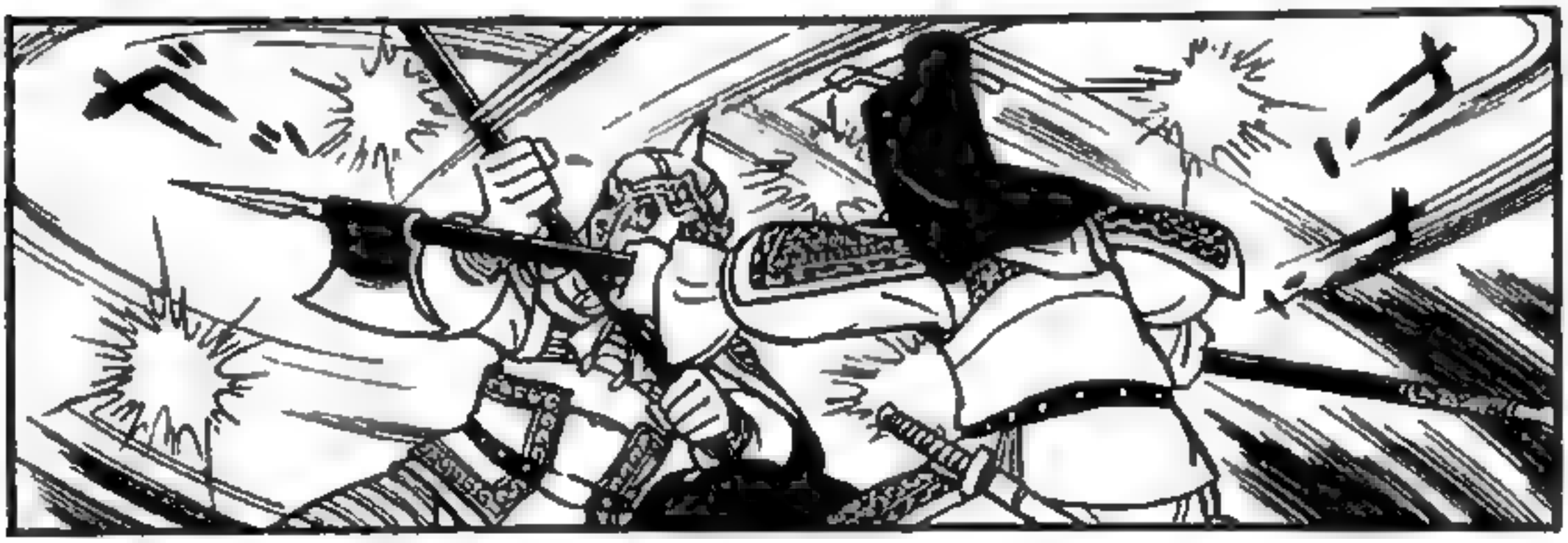

I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT TODAY, XU HUANG!
VERY WELL!
COME AT ME, LIU FENG!





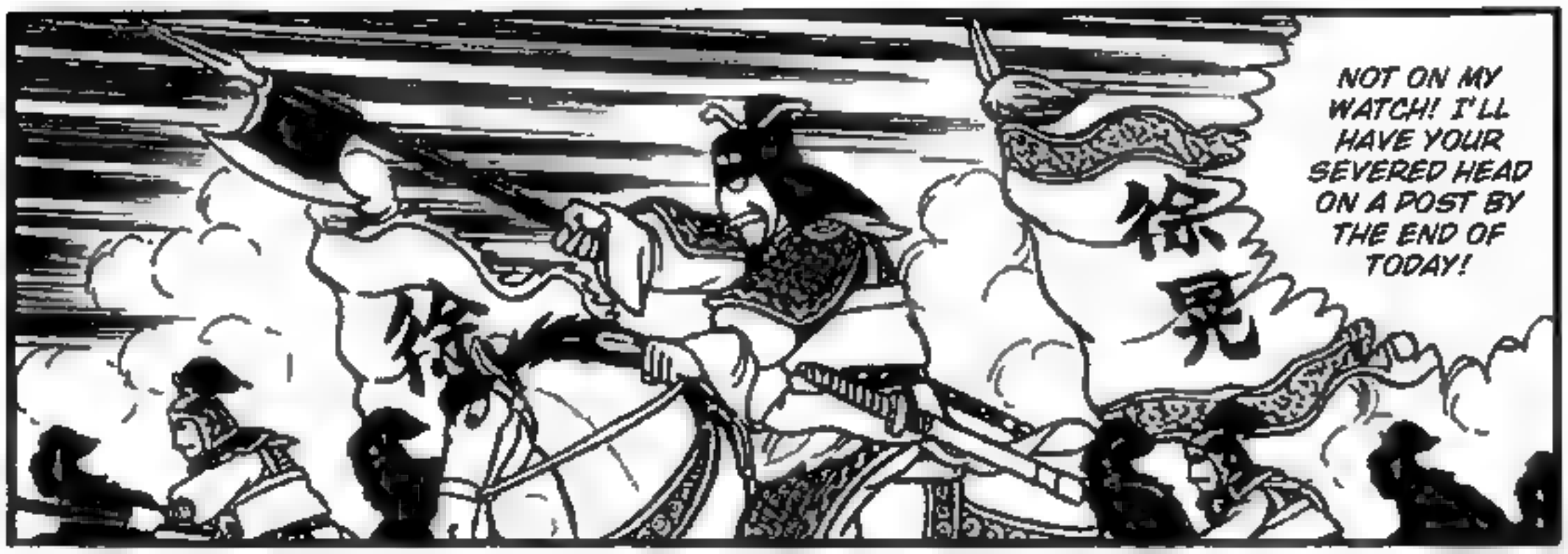






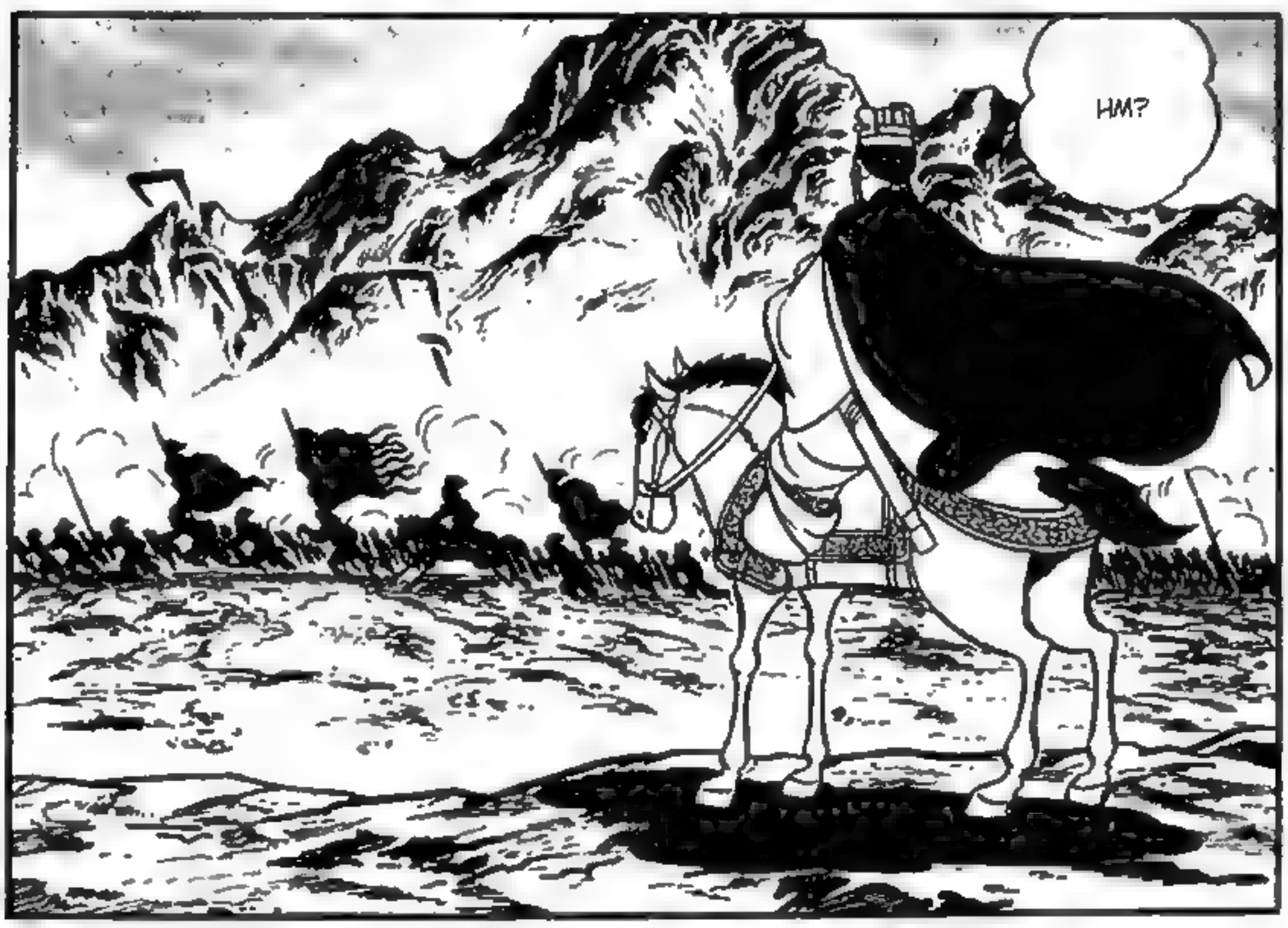

RUNNING AWAY!?




NOT ON MY WATCH! I'LL HAVE YOUR SEVERED HEAD ON A POST BY THE END OF TODAY!




AGHH!


HM?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR!

I SAID CALL OFF THE PURSUIT!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

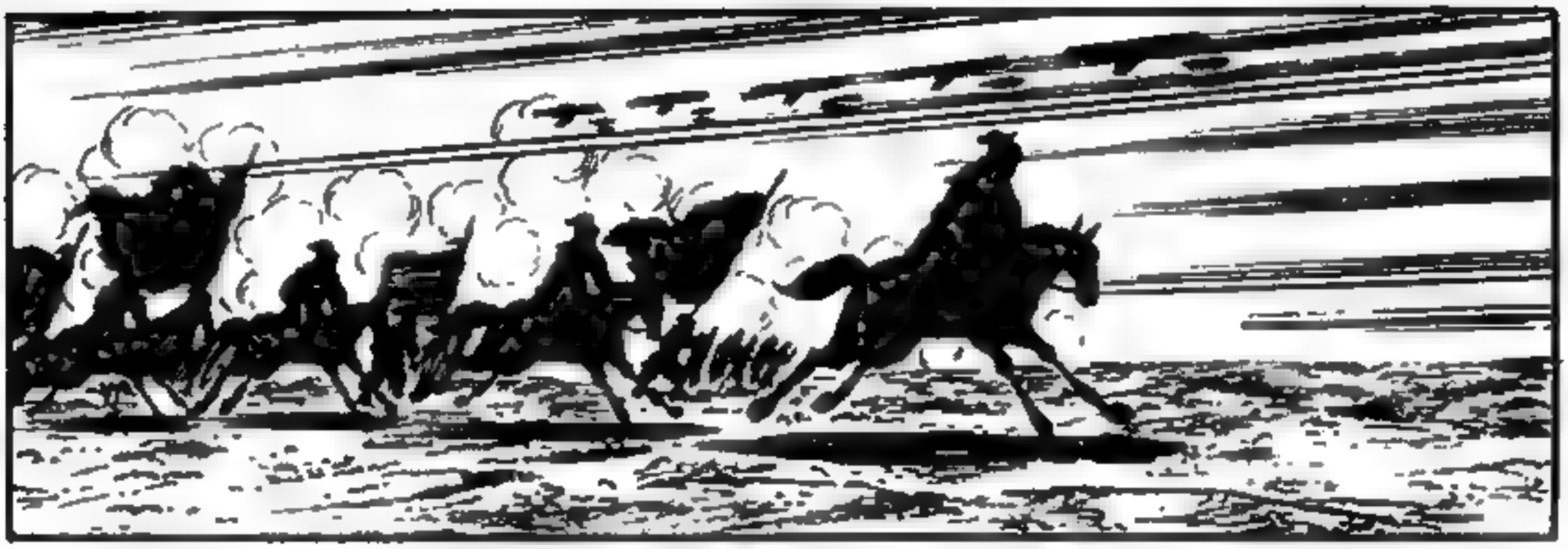
CALL OFF THE PURSUIT.

HM!?

WITHDRAW, TROOPS!

?

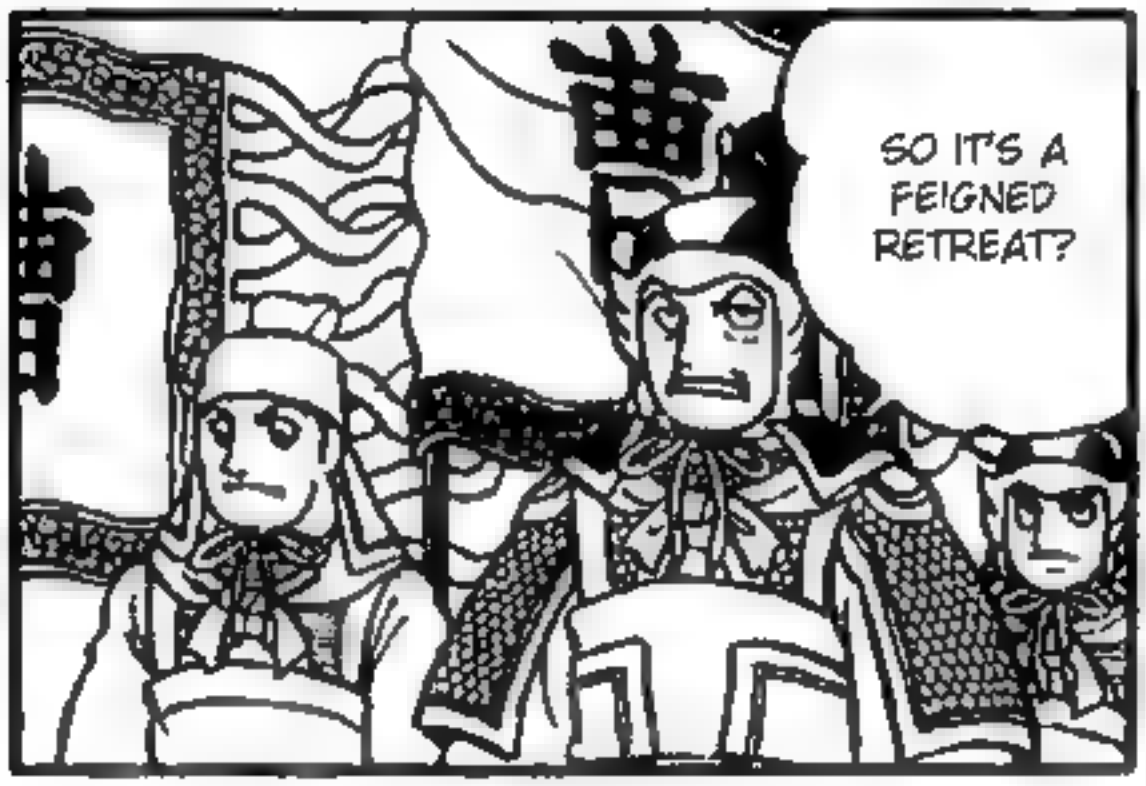
THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW...



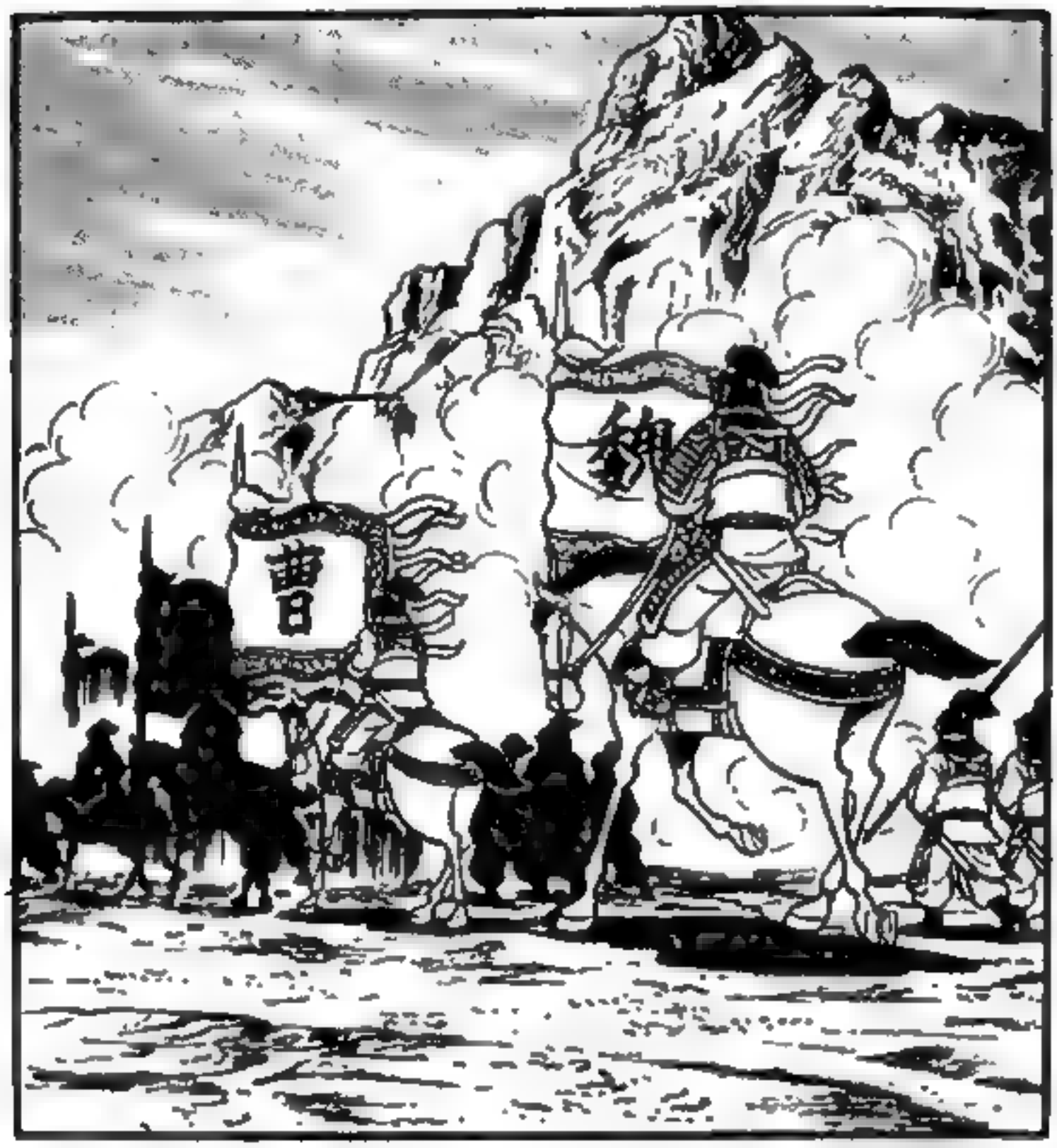

A TRAP!?


NO, THIS IS A TRAP.
SIR, MAY I ASK WHY THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW WAS GIVEN? OUR FORCES WERE JUST ABOUT TO ROUT THE ENEMIES.


THE ENEMIES WERE ACTING SUSPICIOUS FROM THE MOMENT THEY PUT THE RIVER TO THEIR REAR.


SO IT'S A FEIGNED RETREAT?


AND NOW THEY'RE ONLY TOO WILLING TO RETREAT WITHOUT HOLDING THEIR GROUND.


曹


THIS IS ENOUGH. LET US RETURN TO OUR CAMP FOR THE DAY.

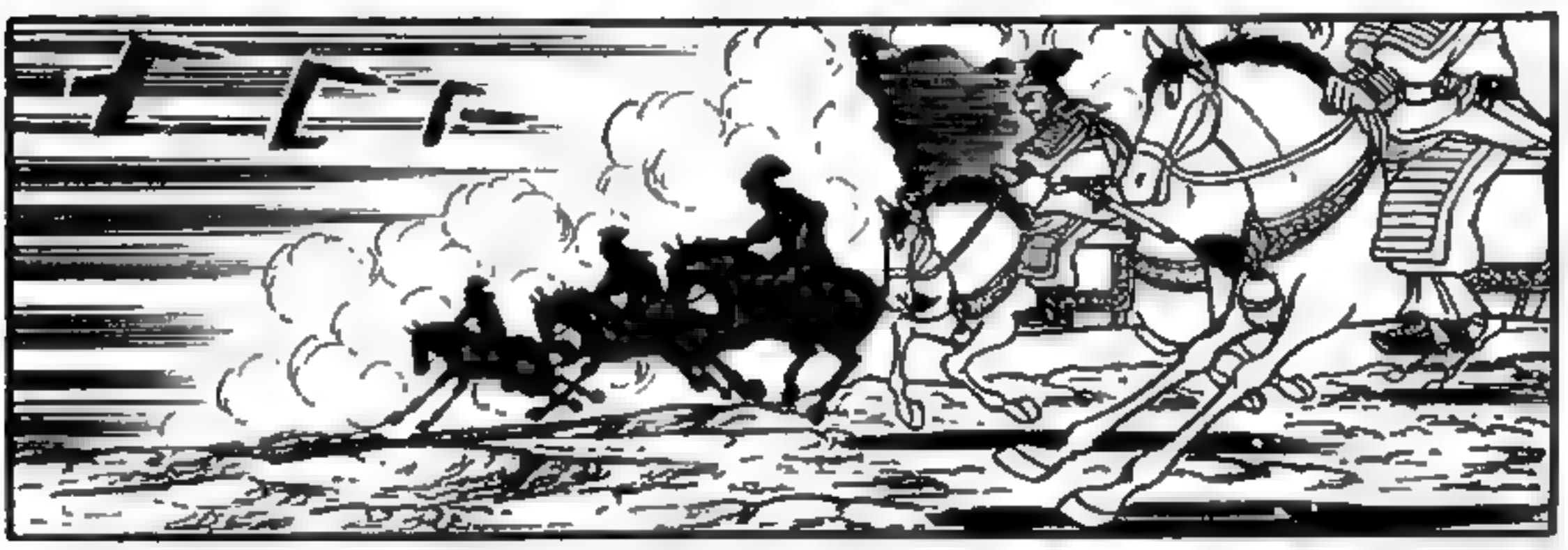

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!


HAHA. CAO CAO IS THINKING TOO MUCH FOR HIS OWN GOOD.
SIR, THE ENEMIES ARE WITHDRAWING!
蜀




MEET THEM HEAD-ON!


AHH! THE ENEMIES ARE RIGHT ON OUR HEELS!






HM?
曹

ENEMIES APPROACHING FROM THE RIGHT!

HUANG ZHONG'S FORCES SPOTTED TO THE LEFT!

THAT'S ZHAO ZILONG'S BANNER! HE'S CHARGING STRAIGHT THIS WAY!

DO NOT FALTER! ATTACK!












THE SUDDEN ASSAULT FROM THREE SIDES CAUGHT THE WITHDRAWING WEI FORCES BY SURPRISE
WITH THEIR DISORDERED LINES, THEY COULD NOT HOLD THEIR GROUND AND WERE FORCED TO RETREAT -
KONGMING DID NOT LET UP THE PRESSURE PURSUING THEM EVEN AT NIGHT

YES, GOOD IDEA. SEND ORDERS FOR ALL UNITS TO WITHDRAW TO NANZHENG.

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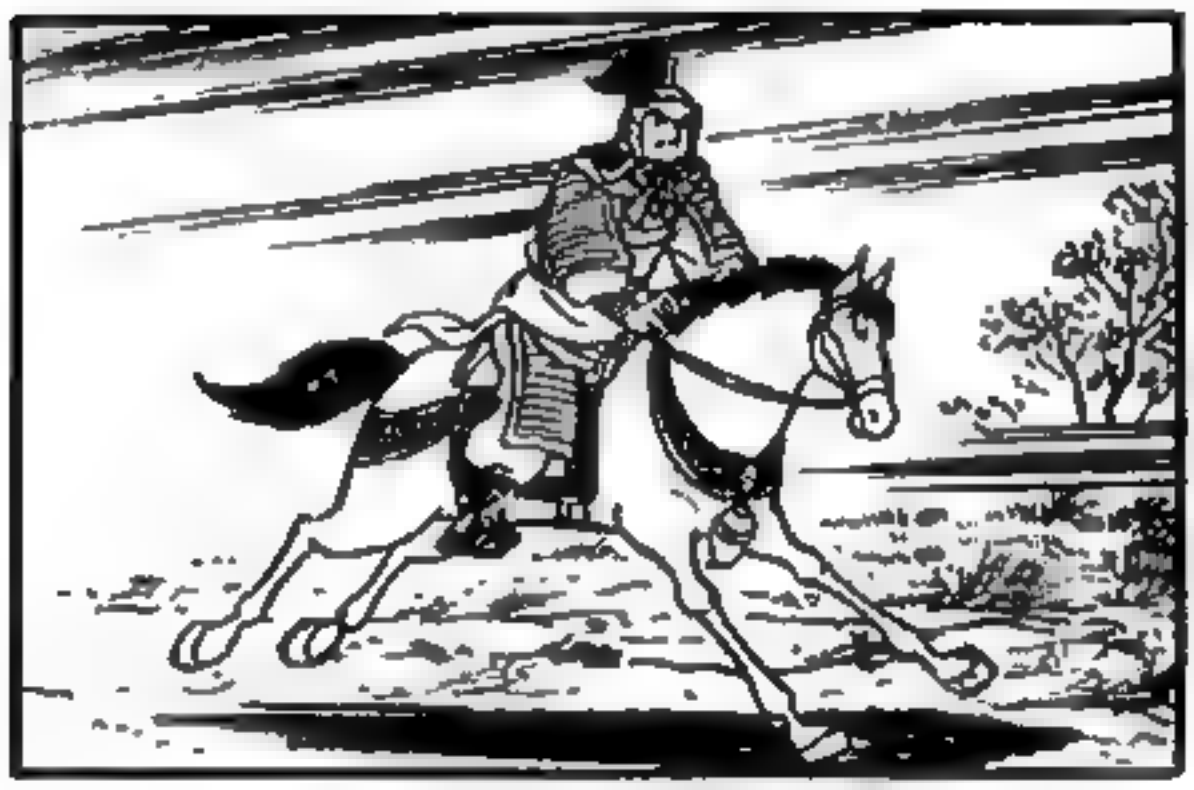
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SIR, I RECOMMEND WE WITHDRAW TO NANZHENG FOR THE TIME BEING.

ALL UNITS! WITHDRAW BACK TO NANZHENG!

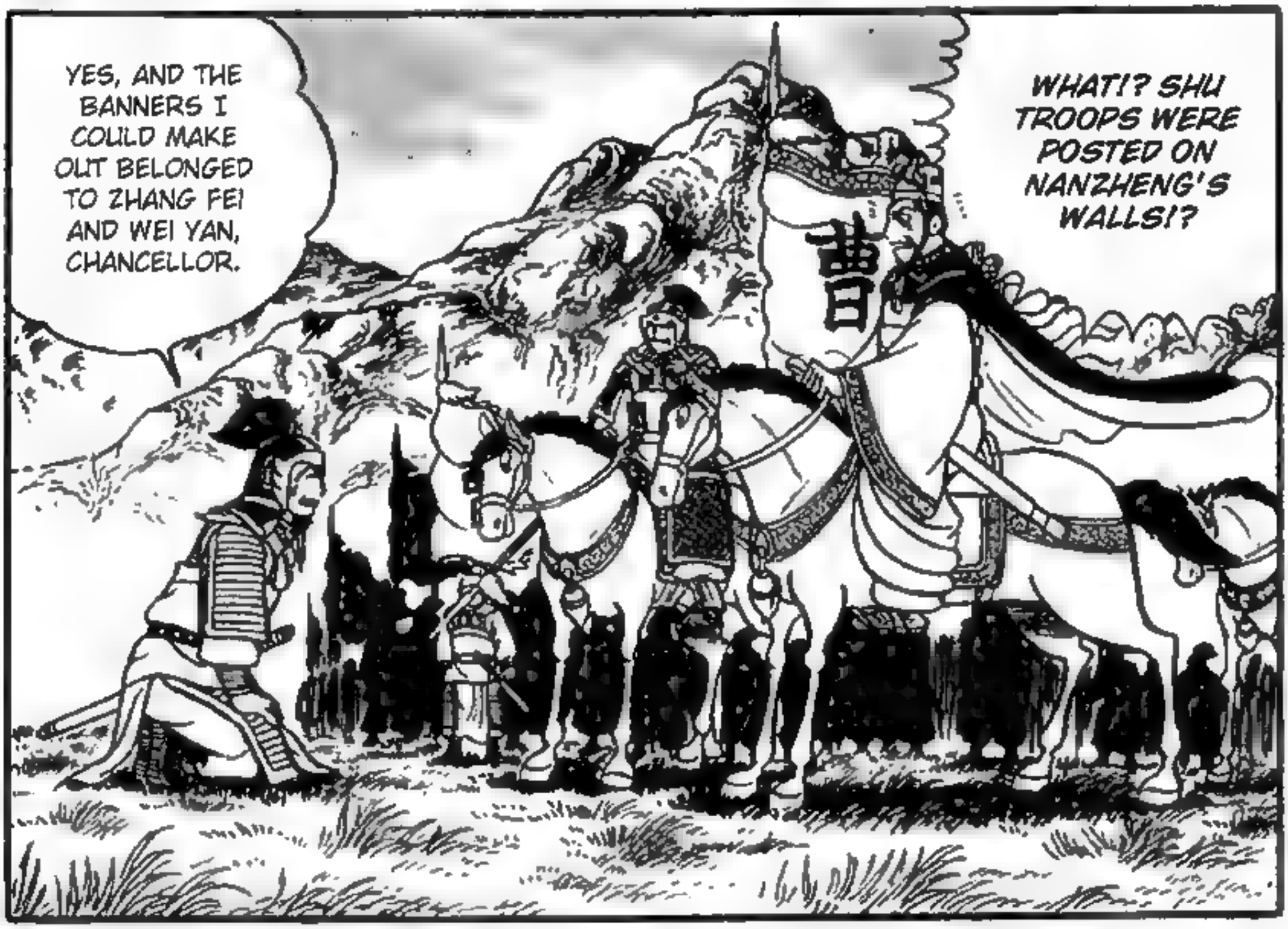
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THERE'S SMOKE RISING UP FROM NANZHENG!
?
AHH!



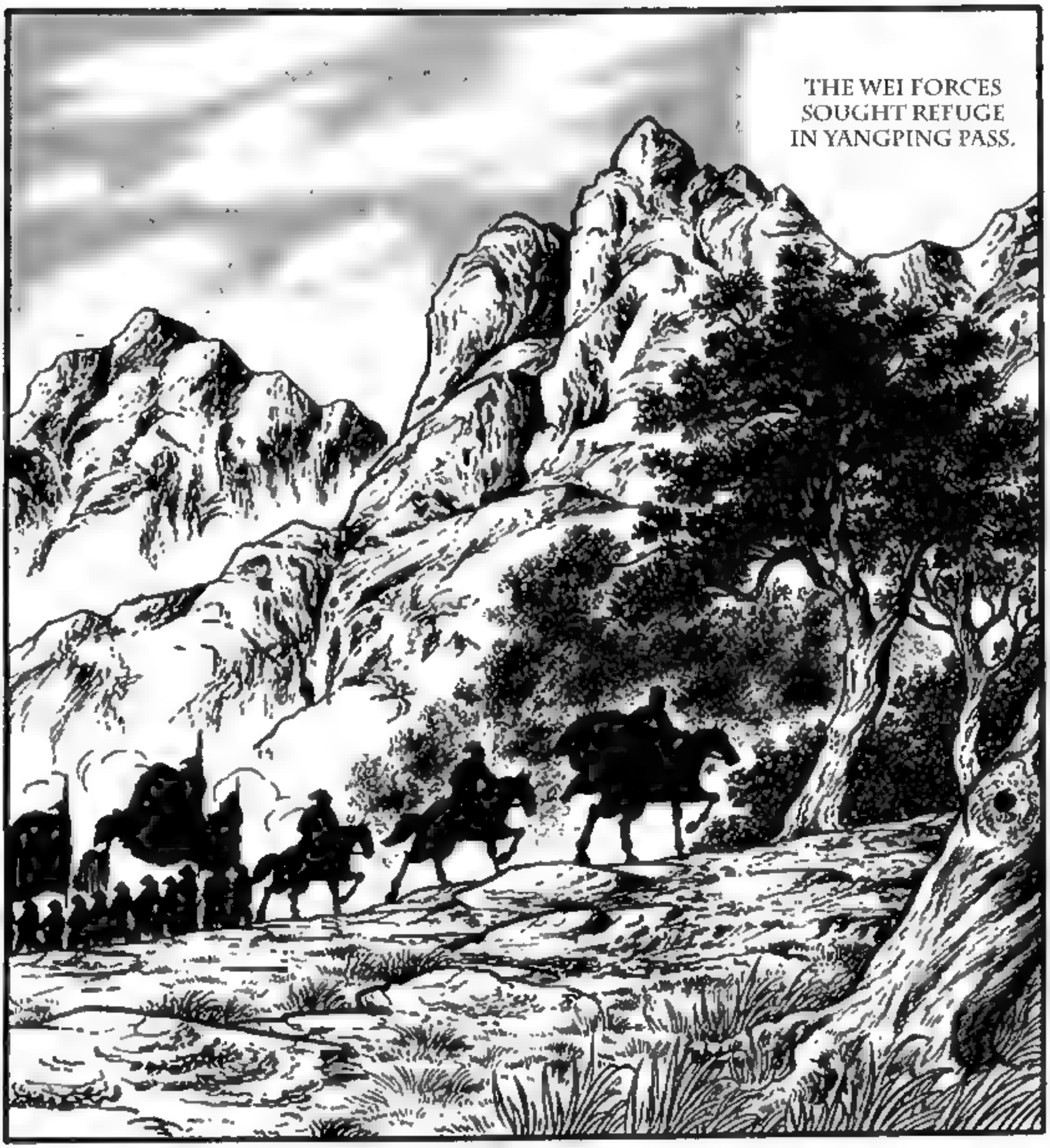

YES, SIR!
SOMEONE RIDE AHEAD AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED!

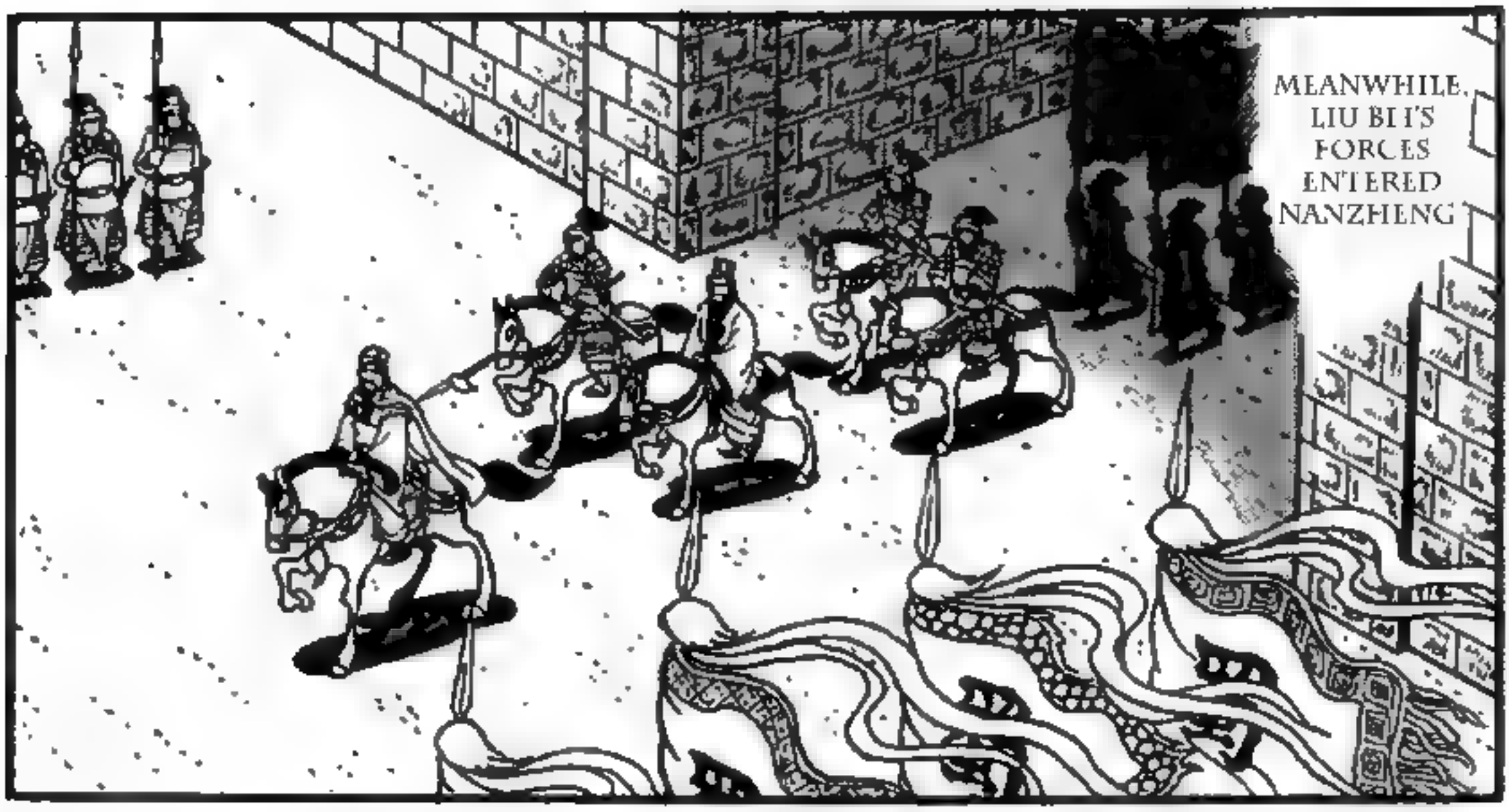

THE SCOUT QUICKLY REPORTED BACK

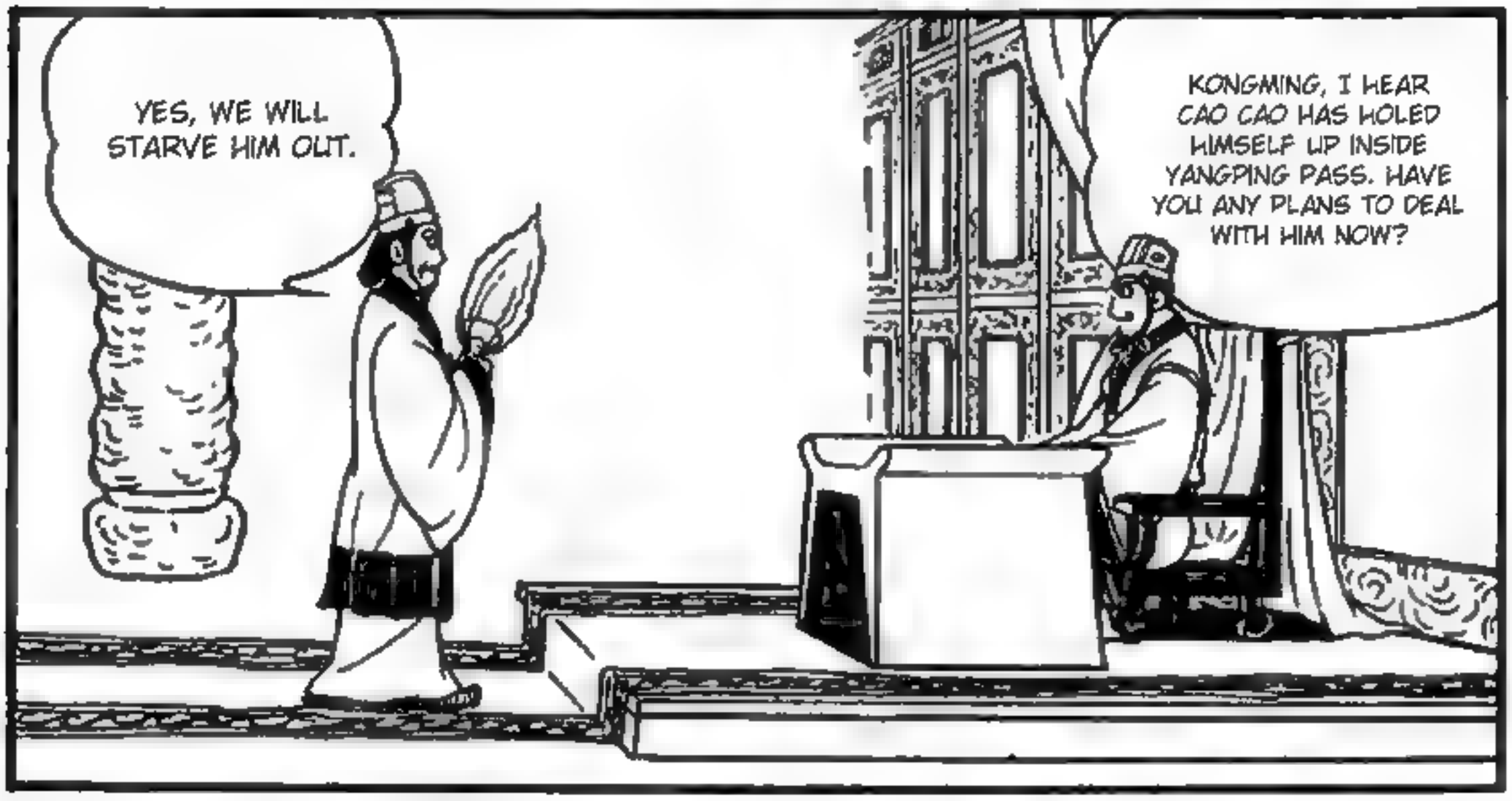

YES, AND THE BANNERS I COULD MAKE OUT BELONGED TO ZHANG FEI AND WEI YAN, CHANCELLOR.
WHAT!? SHU TROOPS WERE POSTED ON NANZHENG'S WALLS!?


WE WILL HEAD TO YANGPING PASS INSTEAD!


WHAT A TURN OF EVENTS...


THE WEI FORCES SOUGHT REFUGE IN YANGPING PASS.

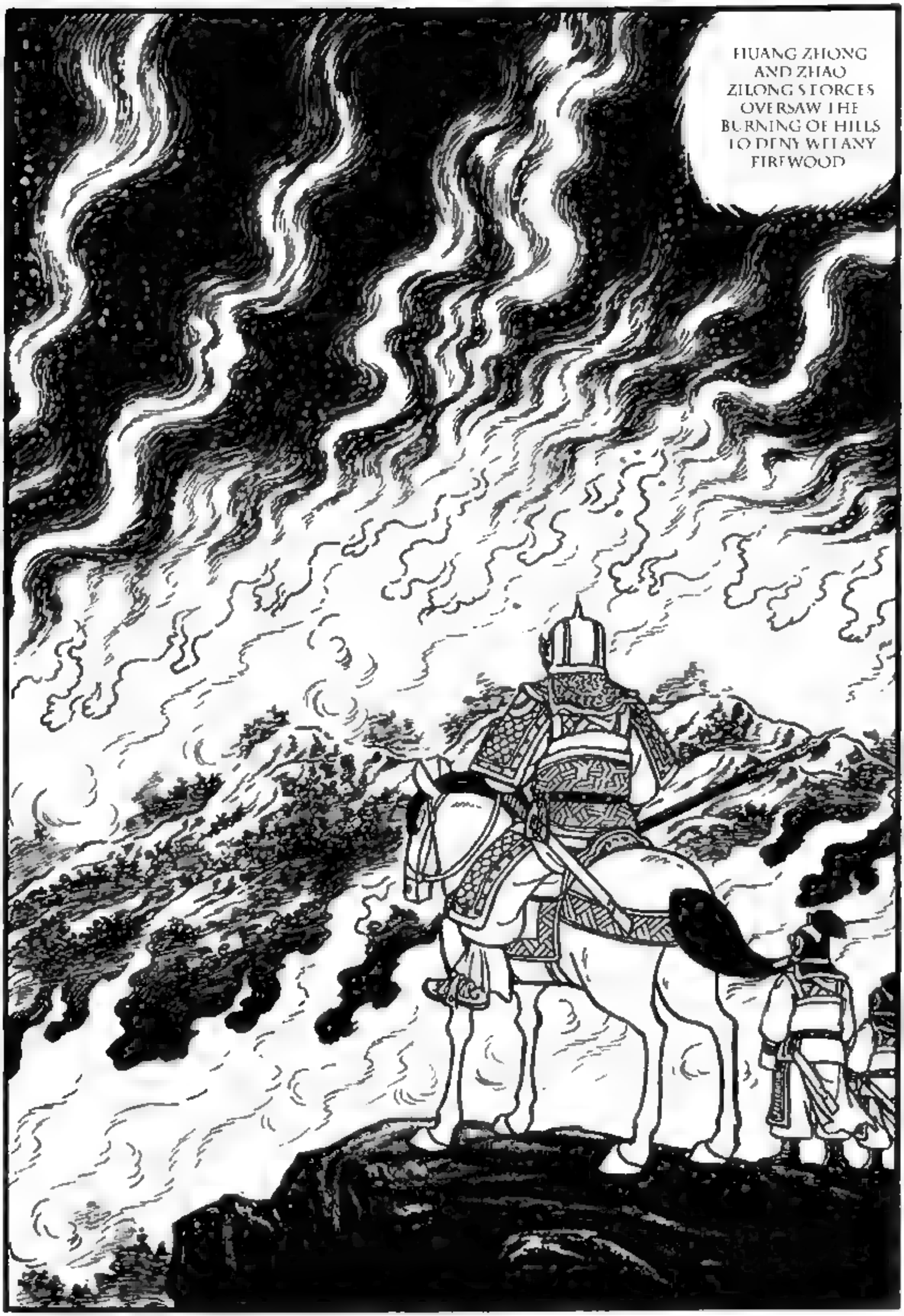

MEANWHILE, LIU BEI'S FORCES ENTERED NANZHENG


YES, WE WILL STARVE HIM OUT.
KONGMING, I HEAR CAO CAO HAS HOLED HIMSELF UP INSIDE YANGPING PASS. HAVE YOU ANY PLANS TO DEAL WITH HIM NOW?


IN ADDITION, I HAVE ORDERED THE BURNING OF SEVERAL HILLS NEAR YANGPING PASS SO THAT THE ENEMIES WILL NOT EVEN HAVE FIREWOOD TO COOK THEIR FOOD.
I HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED ZHANG FEI AND WEI YAN TO BLOCK OFF THE SUPPLY ROUTES TO YANGPING PASS.


KONGMING'S ORDERS WERE QUICKLY CARRIED OUT


THE ROADS TO YANGPING PASS WERE LAID WITH LOGS AND BRANCHES TO PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF SUPPLY WAGONS


HUANG ZHONG AND ZHAO ZILONG'S FORCES OVERSAW THE BURNING OF HILLS TO DENY WEI ANY FIREWOOD


YANGPING
PASS


SO THEY'RE STARVING US OUT, ARE THEY...


YES, SIR.
WHAT!? THE HILLS ARE BURNT AND THE ROADS ARE BLOCKED!?


IF WE LOSE THOSE STORES, THEN WE'LL REALLY STARVE TO DEATH.


ZHANG FEI AND WEI YAN'S FORCES ARE ALSO RAIDING ANY OF OUR GRAIN STORES NEARBY.


ALLOW ME, MY LORD.


IS THERE ANY WHO CAN WARD OFF THESE GRAIN THIEVES!?


I'LL LEAVE THE MATTER TO YOU THEN.


THANK YOU.
AH, XU CHU! DEPENDABLE AS EVER!


XU CHU WAS GIVEN 1000 TROOPS TO ESCORT THE DELIVERY OF GRAIN FROM THE SUPPLY STORES


WORRY NO MORE. THE ENEMIES WILL NOT HAVE OUR GRAIN AS LONG AS I'M AROUND.
THANK YOU FOR COMING, GENERAL. WE WERE WRACKED WITH WORRY ON HOW TO DELIVER THE GRAIN WITHOUT A SIZABLE FORCE TO DEFEND IT.


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


PLEASE, COME INSIDE AND RELAX FROM THE LONG TRIP WITH A DRINK.

SURE.

PLEASE, HAVE ANOTHER CUP.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I COULD JUST SIT DOWN AND HAVE A DRINK!

I SHOULD GET GOING THEN.

THE TASTE OF FINE WINE AFTER SO LONG WAS TOO MUCH FOR XU CHU'S SELF DISCIPLINE.

OH?

NIGHT OR DAY, IT MATTERS NOT. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS GETTING THIS GRAIN BACK TO YANGPING PASS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BUT THE SUN HAS ALREADY SET, GENERAL. WILL YOU NOT SPEND THE NIGHT?

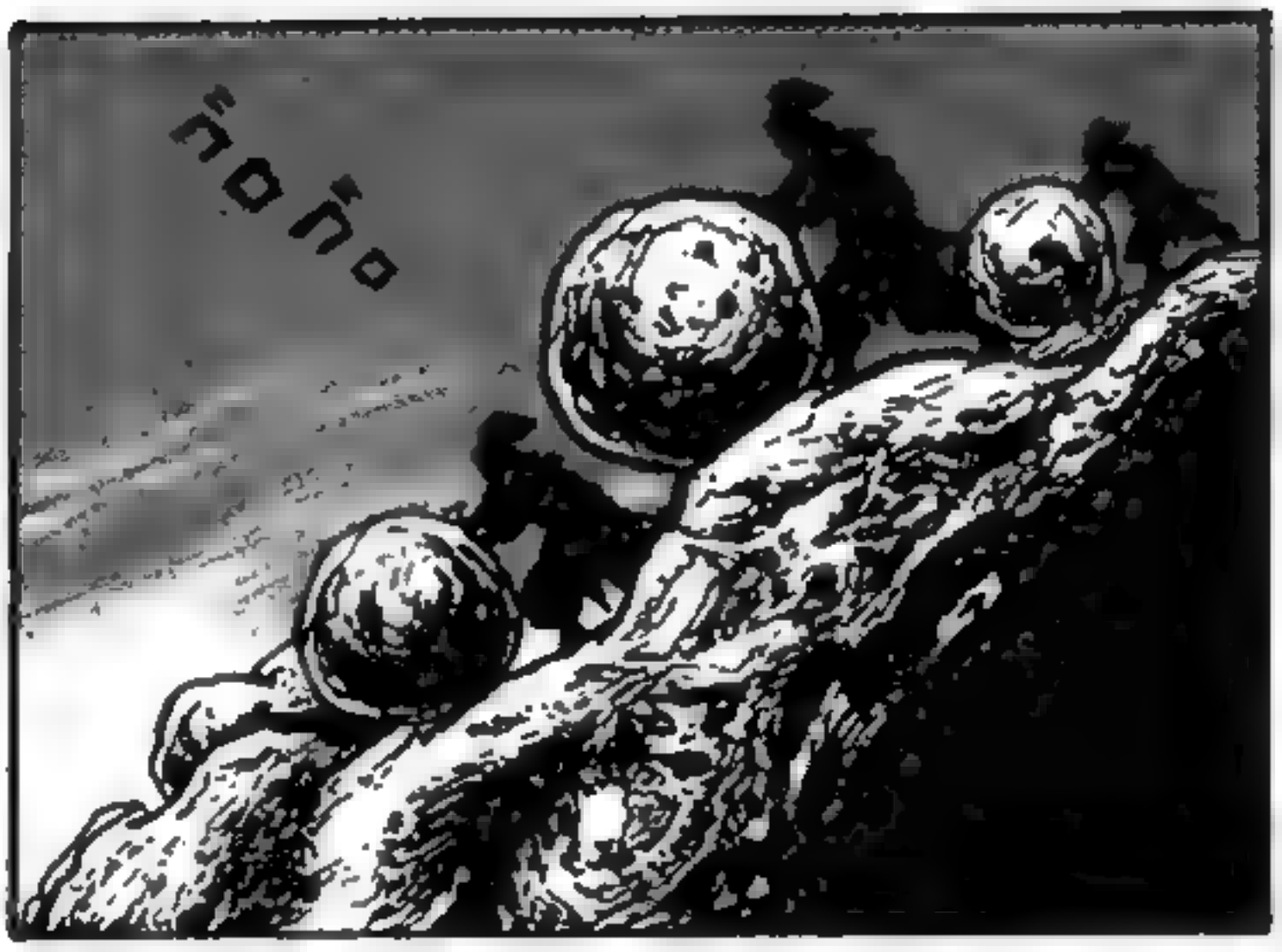

Y-YES, SIR.


LET'S BE ON OUR WAY NOW!

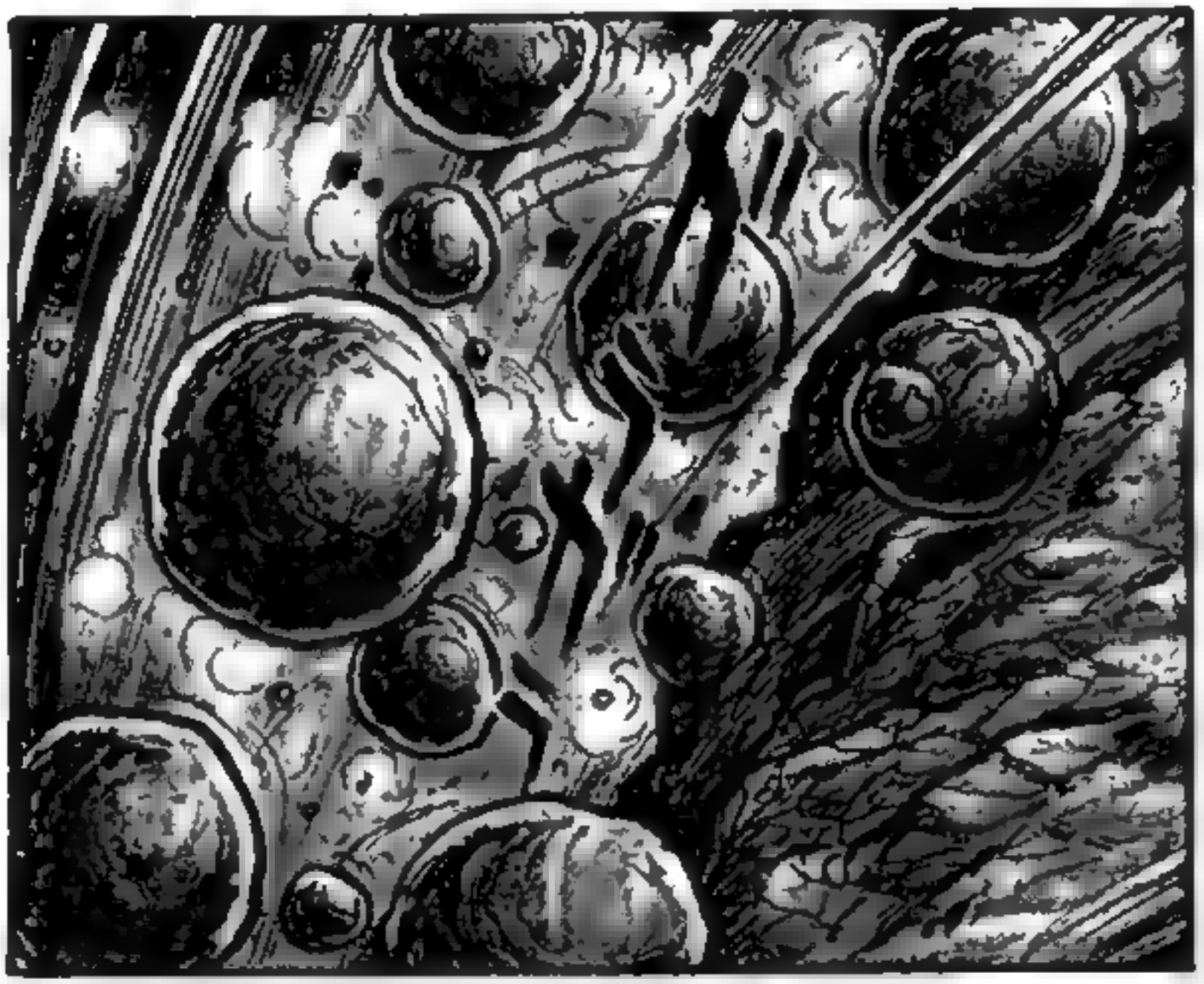

XU CHU WAS FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THE WINE ON THE WAY BACK.

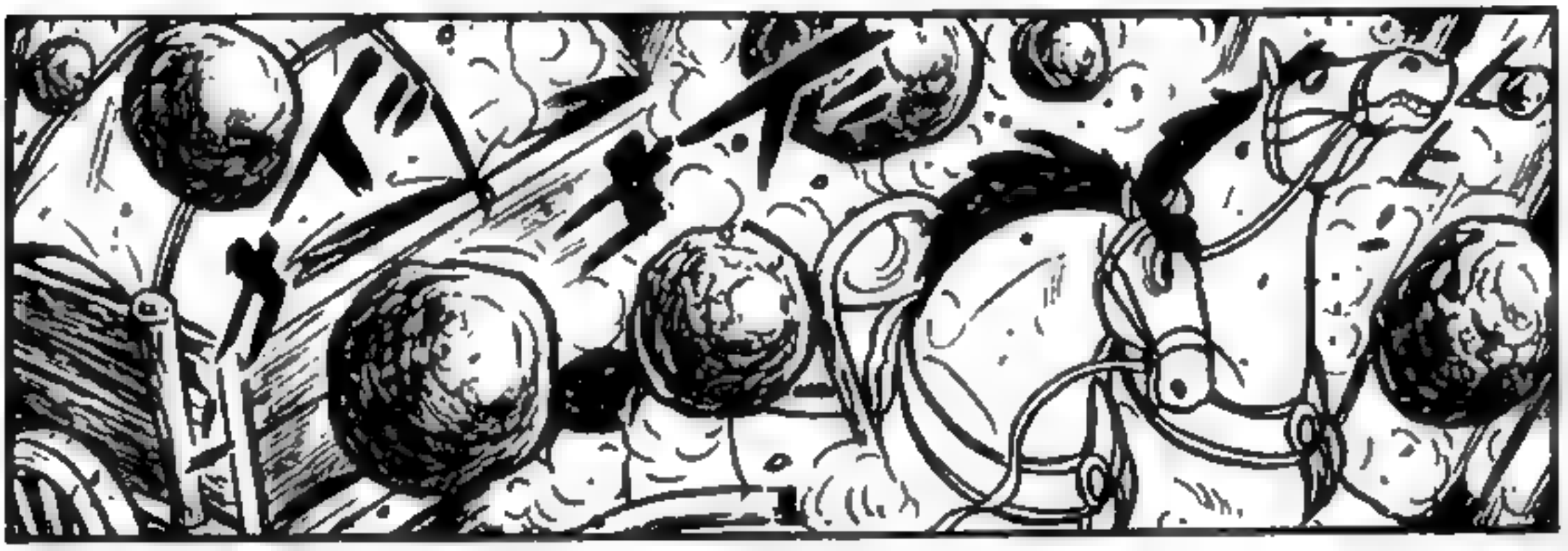

THE GRAIN WAGONS WERE PASSING THROUGH BAOZHOU WHEN IT HAPPENED


AH!


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WATCH OUT!






NGHH...


HALT RIGHT THERE! YOUR GRAIN NOW BELONGS TO ME, ZHANG FEI YIDE!

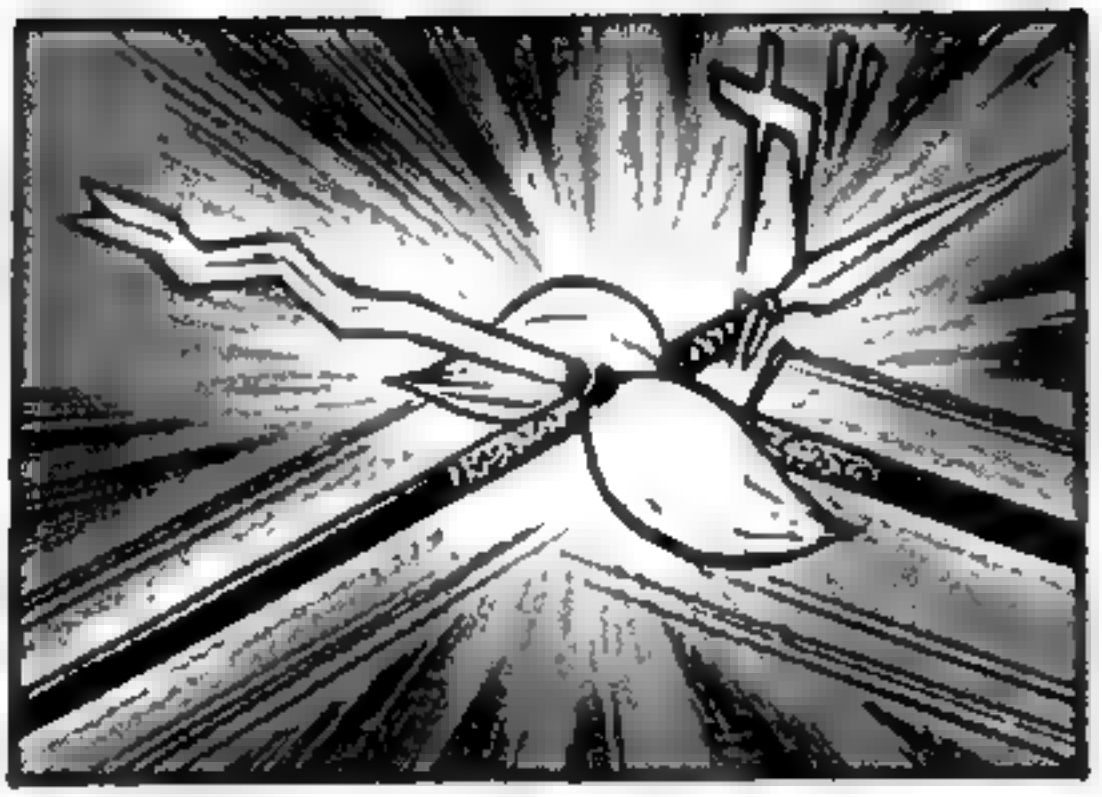

I AM XU CHU! FIGHT ME, ZHANG FEI!


A WORTHY OPPONENT INDEED!



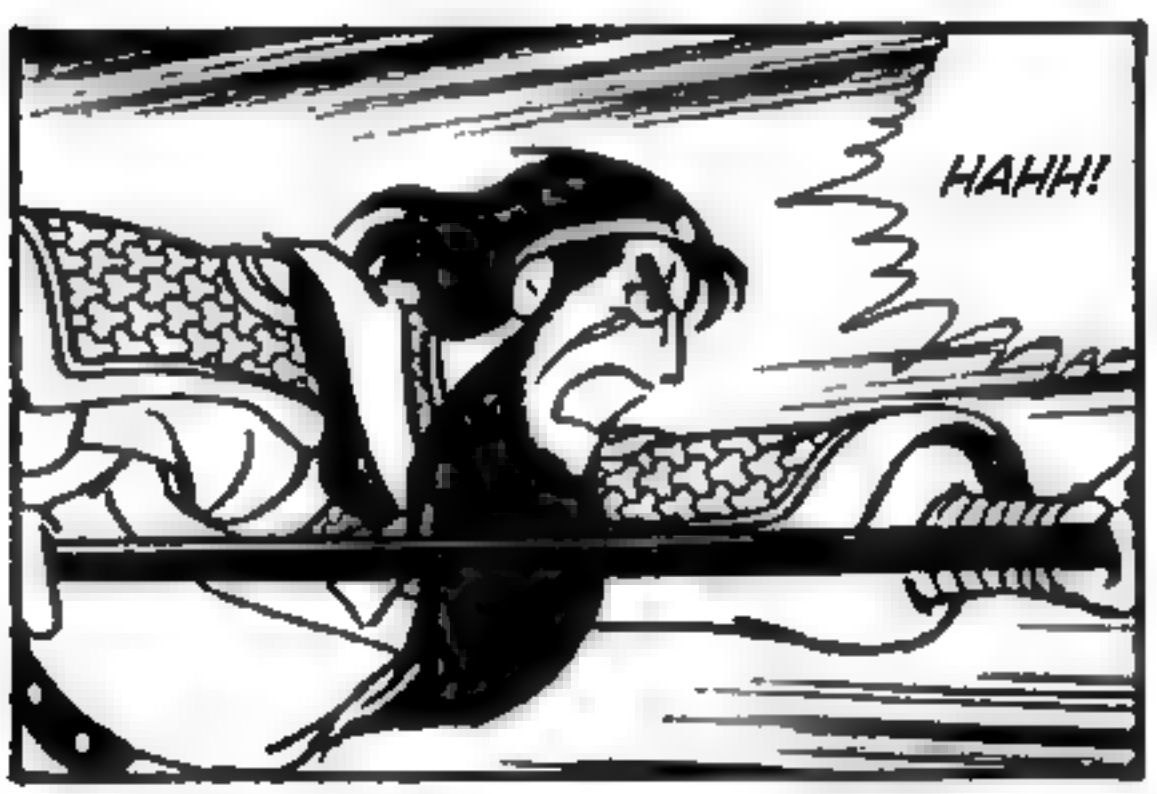

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HAHH!


AGHH-



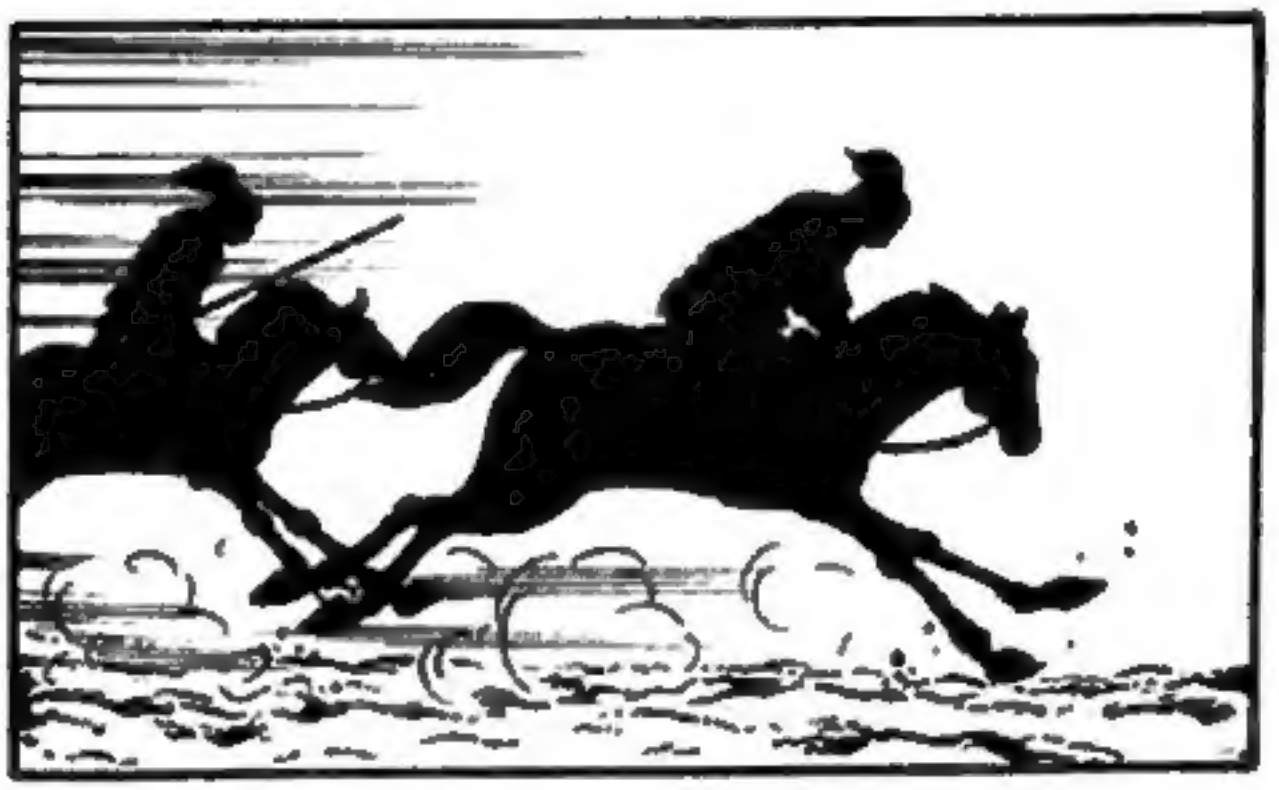



PROTECT OUR GENERAL!


SIR!


CURSE MY INEBRIA-TION...
YOU MUST GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN, SIR!








NO, NO. THERE'S NO NEED TO PURSUE THEM.


DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


OUR OBJECTIVE IS THIS GRAIN AND GRAIN ALONE.



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三国志

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横山 光輝

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